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JESUS *of* NAZARETH





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Jesus Blessing the Children

Jesus of Nazareth

The Life of Our Lord

Written for the Children

By

Jessie Meek

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Dedication

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO ALL CHILDREN, AND IS WRITTEN WITH THE ONE PURPOSE OF INTRODUCING YOU TO JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SAVIOR. MAY THE KNOWLEDGE YOU GATHER FROM THIS BOOK BE THE BEGINNING OF A DEEPER KNOWLEDGE YOU MAY HAVE BY A PRAYERFUL STUDY OF GOD'S HOLY BIBLE.

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That Sweet Story of Old.

I think, when I read that sweet story of old,
When Jesus was here among men,
How He called little children as lambs to His fold,
I should like to have been with Him then.

I wish that His hands had been placed on my head,
That His arms had been thrown around me,
That I might have seen His kind look when He said,
“Let the little ones come unto me.”

Yet still to His footstool in prayer I may go,
And ask for a share in His love;
And if I thus earnestly seek Him below,
I shall see Him and hear Him above:

In that beautiful place He has gone to prepare;
For all who are washed and forgiven;
And many dear children are gathering there,
“For of such is the kingdom of heaven.”

—MRS. JEMIMA LUKE.

A SAVIOR PROMISED

MANY, many years ago, when all the world was new and man had just begun to live upon the earth, God made a promise.

This promise was made first to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and this is why God made it.

He had placed this holy man and woman, whom He had created, in this beautiful garden, to take care of it. It was a delightful place with everything pure and holy around them. A clear river of water flowed through it, and all kinds of delicious fruits and beautiful flowers grew in it. There were two trees growing in the midst of the garden; one was the Tree of Life and the other was the Tree of knowledge of good and evil. God told Adam that they must not eat of the fruit from the Tree of knowledge of good and evil. There was plenty of other fruit to eat, so they did not need the fruit of this tree; and God, for wise reasons, told them not to eat of it.

But Adam and Eve disobeyed God. The serpent, or Satan, tempted them to eat of the

fruit of the forbidden tree, and they ate it; and by this one act of disobedience they became unfit to have fellowship with God. They felt a good deal as children do now who disobey their parents, and they tried to hide away from God. Their souls were filled with darkness and sin, and God had to shut them out of the beautiful garden.

Many people today are disobeying God, and by their acts of disobedience are lost and shut out from God's blessed presence.

Adam and Eve did just what God told them not to do, and ever since that dreadful sin of disobeying God, men could not get back to God, without a Savior; but when God's own Son was willing to be that Savior — to leave His home in heaven, come to the earth and die for the sins of men — then God could forgive sin and take man back instead of putting him away from Him forever.

So the promise God made was that the world should have a Savior.

The Bible says that all men have sinned, and because of sin all men are lost; and this Savior was to show them the way back to God, and to die for the sins of the people.

Years and years passed by, and each generation looked for the promised Savior. All

down the ages prophets lived and reassured the people of His coming.

Isaiah said: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

Jacob said: "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come."

Jeremiah said: "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth."

Micah said: "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel."

God wanted the people to believe that the Savior would come, as He wants us to know that the Savior has come. They were saved through faith in the Promise. We are saved through faith in the Promised One.

When God saw fit to fulfill this promise He had made, and send His Son from heaven to earth, He sent an angel to a good Jewish

woman to tell her that she should have a son who was to be this promised Savior. She was to be His mother, and God was His father.

The prophets had called the Son of God by many different names, but the angel said: "Thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins."

The name of this woman was Mary, and she belonged to the tribe of Judah. The name of her husband was Joseph, and he was a carpenter by trade. They lived in the little city of Nazareth, which is in Galilee.

About this time the king ordered all the Jews to go to their native cities to be enrolled. He wanted the name of each Jew so he might tax them — have them pay so much money at certain times.

Bethlehem in Judea, about eighty miles away, was the native city of Joseph and Mary; for they were of the tribe of Judah. So to Bethlehem they started. The road was rugged and hard to travel. We do not know how long it took them to make this tiresome journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, but when they reached the city they found it filled with people who had come from all parts of the country to be enrolled, and finding no room in the inn, they lodged in a stable.

THE PROMISE FULFILLED

THAT night in this humble place, Jesus the Son of God was born, and having no better place to lay Him, Mary "laid Him in a manger." God had fulfilled His promise, as He always does.

The great and rich people of the earth were not thinking anything about the poor people in the stable, but in heaven everyone was watching.

This baby just born into the world was God's only Son, who came to earth in human form to make a way for lost people to get back to God.

He was accustomed to all the splendor of heaven. He was used to the close companionship of God, and the worship and service of the holy angels.

To be sure they did not abandon Him in His earthly life, but He "made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men." (Phil. 2:7.)

Jesus was willing to do all this, and suffer all He knew He would have to suffer be-

fore He went back to heaven, because He loved us, and wanted to save us from being lost so we might live forever in heaven with Him.

And God was willing to have His only Son, whom He loved more than your father could ever love you, suffer as He knew He would suffer, because God loved the people He had created, and wanted us to love and obey Him. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16.)

God wanted the world to know that this baby in Bethlehem was His Son, so He sent an angel to a company of shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

The sudden appearance of the angel just above them, and the glory of the Lord shining round about them, frightened the shepherds greatly; but the angel said, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

* * * Ye shall find the babe wrapped in



swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:10, 12.)

Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of angels praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

The angels went back to heaven, leaving the astonished shepherds alone with their sheep. Then they said to one another, “Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us” (Luke 2:15).

Bethlehem was called “the city of David” and the shepherds hastened to Bethlehem where the angel had told them they would find the Savior lying in a manger. There they found Him, and Joseph and Mary.

They told the people what they had seen that night and what the angel had said concerning this child. The people wondered at the strange things of which the shepherds told them, “But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.” (Luke 2:19.)

The shepherds returned to their flock in the field, praising God for all things they had heard and seen. They knew their promised Savior had come.

This was one way God had of making known the birth of Jesus; but there was still another way of calling attention to the birth of His Son.

Some wise men in a far eastern country on the night that the shepherds had seen such strange things, discovered an unusual star of very striking appearance in the heavens. These men knew about the promise of God, and this star was to them a sign that a Savior was born who would be king of the Jews.

Three of the wise men who had seen the star determined to visit Judea, and worship this new born king. So they started on the long journey, guided by the star.

JESUS PRESENTED IN THE TEMPLE

WHEN Jesus was six weeks old Joseph and Mary brought Him to the temple in Jerusalem to be presented to the Lord as the Jewish law required. The oldest son of each Jewish family was brought to the Lord at that age.

When a child is presented in the temple, the priest taking him in his arms and holding him up before the altar, thus dedicated him to God. After he was given back to his mother, his name was written in a book which contained the names of the oldest son in each family of the Jews.

In this way Jesus was dedicated to God. Many, many first-born sons were presented in the temple, and the priest saw in Jesus nothing different from other children who had been presented. He was, to the priest, simply one of many babies. He did not know he was holding in his arms the Savior God had promised to His people.

But while they were in the temple a holy man by the name of Simeon was led by the Spirit into the temple, and when he saw the

child Jesus, he knew at once that this was the Savior.

A promise had been given Simeon that he should not die until he had seen the Promised One. This good man took Jesus in his arms, blessed God and said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word.

"For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

"Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

"A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel" (Luke 2:29-32).

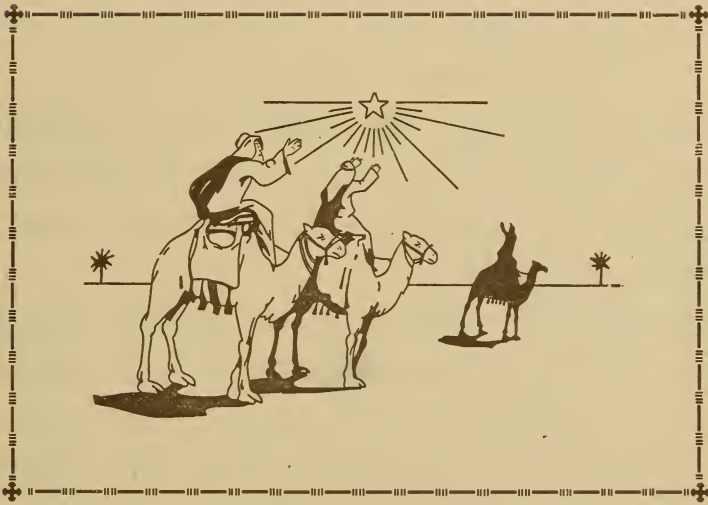
Joseph and Mary, listening to the words of Simeon, wondered at the things he said about Jesus.

A holy woman of great age who lived in the temple and served God with fastings and prayers night and day, came in just then, and, seeing Jesus, also said wonderful things about Him.

Thus, to the humble shepherds on the hills around Bethlehem and to the wise men in the far eastern country and to these two holy servants in the temple, did God reveal things concerning His Son that could not be revealed to the wicked king on his throne or to the haughty and selfish priest in the temple.

PRESENTED IN THE TEMPLE 19

Only humble, obedient people can God use in His work. If we would be chosen of Him we must be humble and obedient also.



THE ARRIVAL OF THE WISE MEN

AFTER many days of weary travel from their homes in the East, the three wise men entered the city of Jerusalem. They came inquiring, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews? for," they said, "we have seen His star in the East, and are come to worship Him" (Matt. 2:2).

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled. He feared another king might reign over the Jewish people instead of himself.

He hastily called all the chief priests and scribes of the Jews together, and demanded to know where Christ should be born.

"And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet" (Matt. 2:5).

Herod called the wise men to him and talked with them alone. He inquired at what time they had first seen the star, then told them to go to Bethlehem and search for the child and after they had found Him to come back to Jerusalem and tell him, so he might go and worship Him also.

ARRIVAL OF THE WISE MEN 21

The wise men left Jerusalem and the same bright star they had seen in the East went before them, and stood low over the place where the young child was.

“They rejoiced with exceeding great joy” when they saw the star; and, when it led them to the place where they found Jesus and His mother, they fell down and worshipped Him and gave Him gifts as was their custom in coming into the presence of a king.

This new-born Son of God was worthy to receive the worship and gifts of these wise men. He is worthy to receive our worship and our best gifts. We are to bring ourselves, our talents and our love as gifts to Him. We are to live each day for Him who came into the world that we might be saved.

When the time came for these wise men to return home, God warned them in a dream not to go back to Jerusalem, for Herod did not intend to worship the child, but to have Him put to death. So the wise men returned home another way.

Thus, God who knows the hearts of all, can prevent the wicked plans of wicked men from being accomplished.

THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

AFTER the departure of the three wise men, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, and take the young child and His mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy Him" (Matt. 2:13).

Joseph obeyed God. He took Mary and Jesus and in the night they fled to Egypt.

God can take good care of people when they obey Him, and He knew He could trust Joseph or He never would have allowed Jesus to become one of his family.

Herod was very angry when he knew the wise men had gone home without coming back to Jerusalem, as he had told them to do. He sent his soldiers to kill all the children in and around Bethlehem from two years and under that age. He thought the baby king could not escape, for he knew He was not over two years old, because he had inquired of the wise men when they had first seen the star.

There was "weeping, and great mourn-

ing” in Bethlehem and the country around when the soldiers carried out the commands of the wicked king; but the Son of God had been carefully guarded by His Heavenly Father, and was safe with His earthly parents in Egypt.

God’s power is greater than all the power of His creatures, and what He plans to do that He brings to pass.

This wicked king Herod died, and after his death an angel of the Lord again appeared to Joseph in a dream.

And the angel said, “Arise, and take the young child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child’s life.”

Again Joseph obeyed God. He took Mary and Jesus and came back into the land of Israel.

He was afraid to live in Bethlehem, for he heard that a son of Herod was reigning since the death of Herod; and being warned of God in a dream, they went back to the city of Nazareth — back to the little city nestled among the hills of Galilee where Joseph and Mary lived when the angel of the Lord first appeared to Mary and told her she should be the mother of the Son of God.

JESUS AS A YOUTH

JESUS spent His boyhood days in Nazareth. We have no record that He ever left that city after He came into it with Joseph and Mary on their return from Egypt, until He was twelve years old.

The Bible says of His early life: "And the child grew, waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon Him" (Luke 2:40).

Jesus grew in stature like any other child, but there was one way He did not grow. He did not grow proud or selfish or self-willed. He was always humble, considerate, and obedient.

He knows all about the trials of childhood and He knows how Satan tries to draw us from the paths of righteousness, as He was "in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin"; for He was never overcome by temptation.

We need not be overcome by Satan, either; for Jesus gives us power to resist the tempter. His blood, that was shed for us, can so cleanse the heart of every child who has

faith and is entirely given up to Him, that we may in this world live blameless before God: and, although, like Jesus, we will be tempted; we can also, like Jesus, sin not. Happy is that child who has so given his life to God and through the power of Jesus lives that kind of a life in this wicked world.

A Jewish boy in his thirteenth year had reached a very important part of his life. He was no longer thought of as a boy, but as a man. He must now begin to learn a trade, and he could now for the first time have a part in the temple service, and was supposed to attend all the feasts.

When Jesus was twelve years old, or in His thirteenth year, He went with His parents to Jerusalem to attend the feast of the Passover.

At this feast a lamb was offered upon the altar in the temple every morning and evening for the people's sins. This represented the death of the Savior for the sins of the world. Isaiah, one of the prophets, spoke of Jesus as the Lamb of God; and Jesus at this Passover feast perhaps began to understand His mission in the world as he saw the priests sacrificing these lambs morning and evening

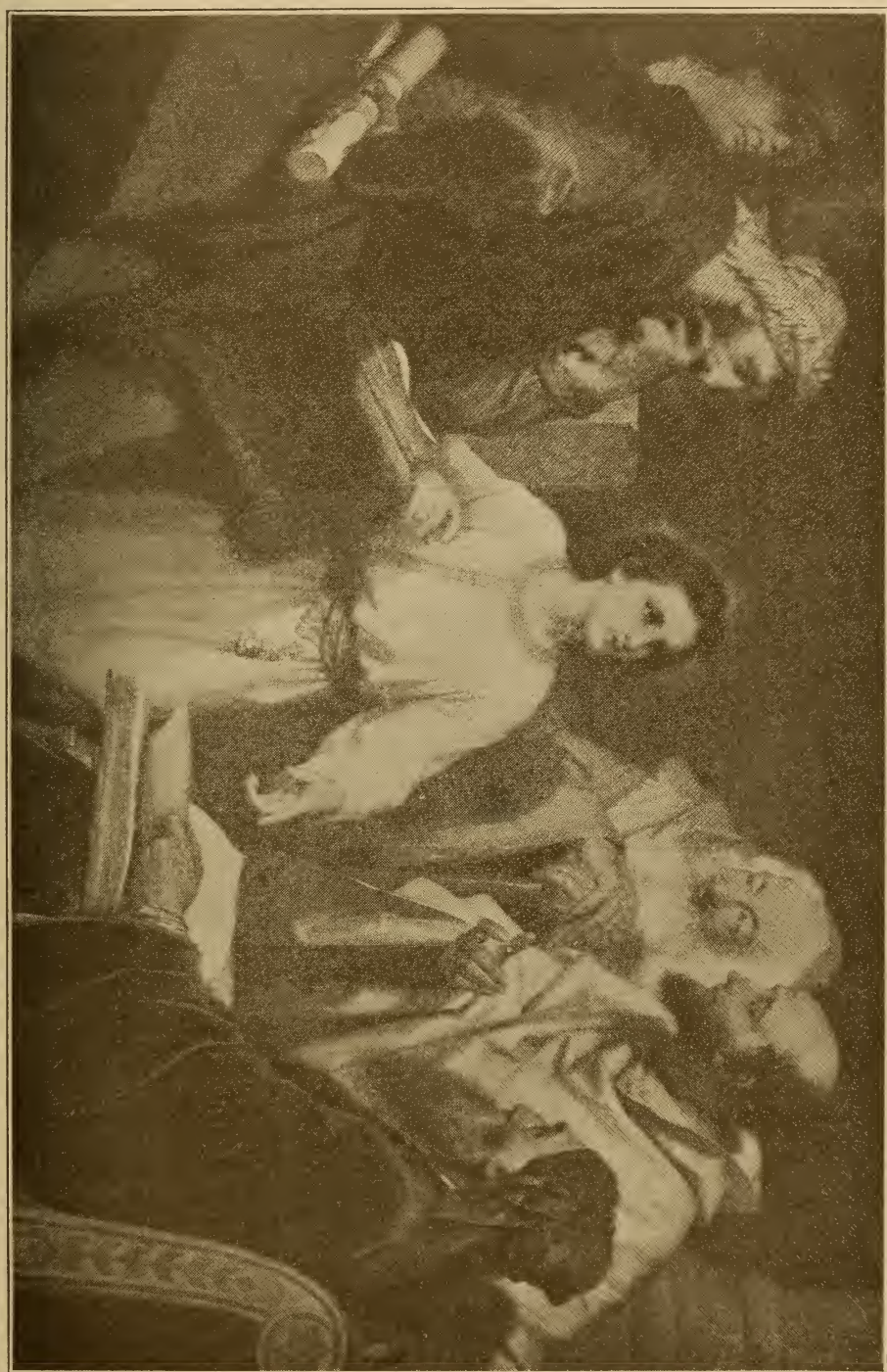
— that as the Lamb of God He must die for the sins of the people.

After the feast was over, the worshippers, who had attended from different parts of the country, left Jerusalem and started home in companies. Usually there was a great number in a company. The men walked together as did also the women.

Joseph and Mary were in the crowd going north toward Galilee. They supposed Jesus was among them. Joseph probably thought He was with the women and children, and Mary must have thought He was with Joseph and the other men. They had gone a day's journey before they discovered that He was neither with His father nor with His mother. They became anxious and sought for Him among their friends and relatives. No one had seen anything of Him since starting, and they turned back to Jerusalem seeking Him.

"After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them and asking them questions" (Luke 2:46).

They were amazed to find Him there among these learned teachers, and the teachers themselves were astonished at His knowledge of the Scriptures. He knew more than



they did, and what He knew was the truth of God, while many of their teachings were false.

As His mother came near she said, "Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing."

And He said to them, "How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?"

More and more the Holy Spirit was showing Jesus His work on earth laid out by God, and He counted that work the most important of all things.

He did not want His parents to seek and sorrow for Him; but God's work must be done, even if it caused suffering to His parents.

He seems to have thought they should have known where He was and what He was doing. Perhaps He knew that the angel who spoke of Him had said He should be called the Son of God. So He said to them, "Why did you seek for me? Did you not know that I must be about my Heavenly Father's work?"

Together they left the temple and went back to Nazareth, Joseph and Mary and Jesus; and Jesus was obedient unto them and "in-

creased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52).

Jesus was really the Savior of Joseph and Mary, as He is the Savior of the world, but He was obedient to them. He set an example for us, showing by His obedience how all children should behave toward their parents. If we would be like Jesus and pleasing to God, we must always be obedient.

He stayed at His home in Nazareth and worked as a carpenter until He was about thirty years old. The Jewish law would not allow any public preaching from a man under that age. Jesus was obedient to the law as well as to His parents.

You should be careful to obey all the rules of school and by so doing you have a consciousness of following the example of Jesus and of your actions being pleasing to Him who, looking down from heaven, sees everything you do.

THE BAPTISM

THE Bible says: "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John" (John 1:6). He was a preacher and he said: "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 3:2).

All who confessed their sins and turned away from them He baptized in the river Jordan. Multitudes of people came out from Jerusalem and from all parts of Judea to hear this strange new prophet and many were baptized by Him.

He was sent by God to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus who, as a man, was soon to come before them as the promised Savior.

John said of Him: "There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.

"I indeed have baptized you with water: but He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost" (Mark 1:7-8).

John had been told by God that upon whom he should see the Spirit descending and

remaining, He it was who was the promised Savior.

One day Jesus came to the river Jordan to be baptized by John. He was baptized, not because He had repented of His sins, for He had no sins of which to repent; but He did it to fulfill all righteous laws and as an example for us.

As Jesus came out of the water, the heavens were opened to John and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove upon Jesus and a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17).

John now knew this was the Son of God: the Savior whom God had promised to the man and woman in the Garden of Eden; the One of whom the prophets had spoken; the One of whom he had been saying, "There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose"; and the One through whom lost men might find their way back to God.

THE TEMPTATION

THERE was the light of heaven upon the face of Jesus, and joy in His heart as the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, and God's voice spoke His approval of His Son.

After the baptism, the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness. He had a great work before Him, and He needed to talk with God about it. He prayed and fasted. For forty days and forty nights He ate nothing and after that He was very hungry.

Satan knew where Jesus was, and he knew if he ever had any influence over Him it would be now, while His mind was weary and His body weak from hunger. So he presented himself before Jesus and said, "If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread" (Matt. 4:3).

Satan always attacks us at our weakest point. He knows just how to tempt us, and in the time of temptation, if we do not look to Jesus and ask for strength from Him, we will yield to the temptation and commit sin.

We cannot in our own strength resist his temptation, but Jesus is mightier than Satan,

and with a prayer to Him for help He will give us such strength that we can say to Satan when he tempts us, "Get behind me, Satan, for I will have nothing to do with you." The Bible says, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

So he tempted Jesus and tried to make Him believe there was no use to be hungry like He was and no use to believe that God would supply Him with food. He had already fasted forty days and forty nights and now "If thou be the Son of God," Satan said, "command that these stones be made bread."

But Jesus would not work a miracle for Himself. His miracles were done to make people understand the power of God.

He would not yield to the temptation of Satan, and doubt God's power, and willingness to help Him; but He would trust God to supply Him with all things needed, so He said, "It is written man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4).

Satan was beaten, but he tried another temptation. He took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem and set Him on a very high place. This pinnacle was so high that if any one looked down from the top of it he would

grow dizzy and his eyes would not be able to see the earth below.

After they reached this high pinnacle Satan said to Jesus, "If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give His angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone" (Matt. 4:6).

What a sly temptation this was from Satan. It was as much as to say, "If you are the Son of God throw yourself down from this pinnacle; for the Bible says, and surely you believe the Bible, that God will send His angels, and they will let you down easy so you will not be hurt. If you do not do this, it will show that you do not trust God and you are afraid to cast yourself down lest God will not send the angels to bear you up."

Jesus knew that God would bear Him up if it were God's will that He cast Himself down; but God had not commanded Him to throw Himself from the pinnacle and He would not do it just to please Satan. So He said, "It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God" (Matt. 4:7).

When you are tempted with such a temptation: when you are dared to do something

that is rash, remember that God does not promise to give His angels charge over you when you are not doing the will of God, but only when you are walking in His ways and obeying Him, and not obeying the ones who are tempting you.

Remember that Jesus would not please Satan, by casting Himself down, for God had not told Him to do so.

That was the second temptation, and Satan had failed in them both. If he could only induce Jesus to disobey the will of God and sin, the world would yet have no Savior, and man would still be lost and the reign of Satan would continue; so he tried once more.

He took Jesus "up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them."

Then he said unto Him, "All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me" (Matt. 4:9).

Jesus came from heaven to earth to die for our sins, and He loved us too much to ever forget the work He had come to do. He would not leave us without a Savior, and leave us in the hands of Satan; and not for anything would Jesus ever worship anyone but God.

So He said to the tempter, "Get thee

hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve" (Matt. 4:10).

Angels in heaven were as eagerly looking down upon this scene as in the little town of Bethlehem the night that Jesus was born into the world some thirty years before. They watched His combat with Satan, eager to hasten down to His relief whenever God should give command.

But Jesus must meet and conquer these temptations alone. He must show Himself stronger than Satan. He must overcome the world.

When He refused to worship Satan, the devil left Him, and the courts of heaven rang with praises of the Son of God. And God gave the word and angels came comforting Him and supplying Him with everything He needed. It was a glorious victory over Satan, and Jesus was the conqueror.

You may have, through the power of God, just such splendid victories. If you have chosen to be on the side of Jesus, Satan will be sure to tempt you. He tempted Jesus and of course he will tempt you. If you fall under his temptation, and do what you know is not right, then you have gone over on his side.

He has conquered you, and you are weaker than you were before and not so able to resist his next temptation.

Follow the example of Jesus and resist each one of Satan's temptations as he presents them to you. After you have conquered the first one, then you will be stronger and more able to resist the next one.

Choose to be on the side of Jesus as you go through this life. Choose now, while you are young, and let not Satan have any power or control over you. Always be true to God and you will find He will give you strength to meet every temptation of the Evil One.

EARLY MINISTRY

WHEN the forty days in the wilderness were ended Jesus was led of the Spirit back to the Jordan, where John was baptizing. John saw Jesus coming and he said, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

The next day John was standing with two of his disciples looking upon Jesus as He walked and he said again, "Behold the Lamb of God."

These two disciples who had heard John say this, followed Jesus. The name of one was Andrew and the name of the other was John. They were fishermen.

To tell the difference between John who was baptizing the people, and John the disciple, we speak of the former as John the Baptist.

Andrew soon found his brother Simon, whom Jesus soon after named Peter, and told him they had found the Savior. Peter followed Jesus also.

On their way to Galilee they saw Philip and Jesus said to him, "follow me." We do

not know much about the life of Philip, but we know he followed Jesus when He called him, and then found his brother Nathanael and told him they had found the one of whom the prophets wrote. Nathanael also followed Him.

Jesus, in company with this little group of disciples, now began the work for which He was sent into the world. His life before this time had been years of preparation for the work.

They came into a town in Galilee called Cana. It was about four miles from Nazareth. Here was being held a marriage feast and Jesus and His disciples were invited. His mother was there, too.

Before the feast was over they discovered they had not wine enough. Then Mary said to Jesus, "They have no wine."

There were six great water jars standing by, and Jesus told the servants to fill them with water. So they filled them to the brim. Then He told the servants to pour out some of what they had poured in and carry it to the chief person there.

Instead of water, there came forth wine, and the man to whom it had been carried, not knowing anything about the miracle of

Jesus, said to the bridegroom that most people began their feast with their best wine, but that here the best had been kept for the last.

This wine that Jesus made would not cause drunkenness, for it was but the pure, sweet juice of the grape. God forbids the use of any wine that will intoxicate, or hurt the body.

This was the first miracle Jesus did. He and His disciples then went from Cana to Capernaum; but they did not stay very long, for it was the time of year when the Jewish people held their Passover feast in Jerusalem, and they went to attend it.

Several days before the feast thousands of Jews began traveling toward Jerusalem, so as to be there at the beginning of the feast.

This was the first Passover Jesus had celebrated since His baptism. When He reached the temple He noticed great confusion in the outer court. Sheep were bleating, cattle were lowing, doves were cooing, and the people were buying and selling in the temple of God.

Jesus took small cords, and, twisting them together, drove out all these people and the oxen and the cattle and threw the tables over where the piles of money were placed, and He said to them that sold doves, "Take

these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise."

After the temple was cleared, the people in great crowds gathered about Jesus, wondering who this could be who had such authority over the people. He did several miracles and many believed He was the promised Messiah.

Nicodemus, one of the rulers, came to Jesus by night, probably to inquire about the Savior's kingdom; which the Jews thought He would set up in Jerusalem.

The disciples once talked about this kingdom among themselves and wondered who would be the greatest in it, and Jesus had said to them, "Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 18:3).

He told Nicodemus the same thing: told him he must be converted or he would never enter into the kingdom of God.

We learned that through the sin of Adam and Eve every one born into the world was lost from God, but everyone can come back to God now, since Jesus was willing to die for our sins, if we turn away from our sins and believe Jesus saves us.

Then you are converted and your heart

is changed. You hate sin and you want to do God's will. You love His ways and His words and you are on His side. Such a change will come over you that you will know God has accepted you. Then it is that Satan tempts you most, and tries to get you back, but if you remember how Jesus conquered him in the wilderness then you will know that He will help you to conquer him, and you need never go back.

While we are on God's side, He gives us a happy, loving, and obedient spirit and heaven forever after death. But when we are on the side of Satan he has nothing to offer us but an unhappy, disagreeable, stubborn spirit and everlasting torment after death.

Even a man like Nicodemus did not know these things until Jesus told him, because they were not teaching the truth in the temple and in the synagogues. They were teaching about washings of the body, tithes of their property, the kind of wood to be burned on the altar and other like things.

But Jesus says we must be changed, if we are to belong to the kingdom of God, and this is brought about by faith in Jesus and turning away from our sins.

Leaving Jerusalem, Jesus preached in the towns and cities of Judea, and from there He started back to Galilee. On the way He passed through the country of Samaria, and, being very weary with His journey, He sat down on the well of Jacob.

While His disciples had gone to the city to buy food a Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me to drink."

She was very much surprised, for she knew how the Jews hated the Samaritans. He told her if she would ask of Him, He would give her living water. He meant He would give her the Spirit of God.

This woman had disobeyed God, but Jesus told her if she would forsake her sins God would receive her and she would be born of the Spirit. She would be changed.

She believed He was the Savior, and, going back to the city, told the people whom she had found. Many came to Him, begging Him to stay with them awhile, and He stayed two days. The people believed on Him and said they knew He was the Christ, the Savior of the world.

Many people were saved because this woman, when she had found Jesus, brought

others to Him. This is a lesson for us. When we have found the Savior who has taken away our sins, we should tell others, that He may take away their sins, too.

IN GALILEE

JESUS came into Galilee again, and the people were glad to see Him, for many of them had been at the feast in Jerusalem when He cleansed the temple and they had seen His miracles.

When He reached Cana, the little town where He had made the water wine, a certain nobleman who lived twenty miles away came to Him and asked Him to go down to Capernaum and heal his son, who was dying.

Jesus said, "Go thy way; thy son liveth." The nobleman believed, and, on going home, found that the fever had left the child the very hour that Jesus had spoken to Him in Cana.

Soon He came to Nazareth, His old home. There in the synagogue on the Sabbath day, among His old friends and neighbors, He declared He was the promised Messiah.

The people wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth, but because He would not show them miracles they became very angry, rose from their seats, and took Him to the brow of the hill, intend-

ing to cast Him down. But He passed through the midst of them and went on His way.

He had been rejected first at the very place where He had spent most of His life.

Don't be discouraged if your friends and neighbors turn against you when you choose to be on God's side instead of on the side of Satan. Remember that Jesus had the same trial and He says, "The servant is not greater than his lord" (John 15:20). He also says, "He that endureth to the end shall be saved" (Matt. 10:22).

Jesus had gone to Capernaum and when the Sabbath days came He entered the synagogue and taught the people. "They were astonished at His doctrine: for His word was with power" (Luke 4:32).

There was a man there who had an unclean spirit, and this spirit cried right out that Jesus was "the Holy One of God." Jesus heard him and commanded him to come out of the man. The spirit immediately obeyed and the people were amazed and said among themselves, "with authority and power He commandeth the unclean spirits and they come out."

Leaving the synagogue, He went with His disciples to Peter's house. There they found

Peter's wife's mother sick with fever. They told Jesus about it, and going into the room, He stood over her and rebuked the fever. She became well immediately and ministered unto them.

The people were greatly astonished at the power of Jesus and they brought all sick people to Him. "He laid His hands on everyone of them, and healed them."

And devils also came out of many, crying out and saying, "Thou art Christ, the Son of God. And He, rebuking them, suffered them not to speak: for they knew that He was Christ" (Luke 4:41).

The ones who had been brought to Jesus by others did not need help going home for the blind could see, the sick could walk, and the dumb could speak. How they must have praised God for their release. How we rejoice when Jesus releases us from the power of Satan.

Some time after this Jesus was preaching in the house of Peter. People were crowded around Him. All the rooms were full and, no doubt, people were standing in the street to hear, and wishing there was room inside.

Four men came along the street carrying a bed, or mat, and on the bed lay a man sick



HEALING THE PALSIED MAN

of the palsy. They were bringing him to Jesus to be healed. After trying in vain to get through the crowd, they carried the bed up the stairway, which was on the outside of the house, and onto the roof. Here they lifted up the tiles, until they had made a place large enough for the bed to pass through, and then they gently lowered it right down before Jesus.

Jesus saw the faith of these men, and He said to the one who was sick, "Man, thy sins are forgiven thee." And again He said, "Arise and take up thy couch and go unto thine house."

"And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God" (Luke 5:25).

Everybody was surprised to see this man well and able to carry his bed, and they praised God, for they knew no one else had such power. They were filled with fear, and they said, "We have seen strange things to-day."

Jesus has such power now. He is able to cure the hardest case. He sometimes heals the body, but He considers the healing of the soul of far greater importance. If we could see

the men and women and children who have come to Jesus today and had their sins forgiven and the wicked desires of their hearts taken away, and the thirst for drink gone, and temper and pride destroyed, just at the command of Jesus, we would say as these people of old did, "We have seen strange things today."

There was to be a feast of the Jews and Jesus went to Jerusalem, where it was to be held. In a certain part of this city was a pool of water, and they called it Bethesda.

At a certain season the water was troubled and the people believed that whoever was the first to step into the water after it was troubled would be healed of whatever disease he had.

There were five porches around the pool, and in these lay people with different kinds of diseases waiting for the water to be troubled, and each one hoping that he might be the first one to get into the water after it was troubled.

One Sabbath day Jesus came down to the pool, and saw a great number of sick people lying there. Some were blind, some were lame, and one poor man had suffered for thirty-eight years with some kind of infirmity.

Jesus knew how long he had suffered, and His heart was full of pity for him. As he stood beside Him, He said to him, "Wilt thou be made whole?"

The man answered, "Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming another steppeth down before me."

Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up thy bed and walk" (John 5:6-8).

The man immediately obeyed Jesus, and in obeying Him he received strength and was made entirely well.

THE SABBATH DAY

THE Jews had many rules of their own for keeping the Sabbath and they wanted everyone to obey their rules. Jesus had made the Sabbath and He knew how to keep it. The Sabbath is to be filled with good works. It is a day which we should devote entirely to honoring God. "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."

The sick man, in the strength that Jesus had given him, rose up, took up the mat on which he had lain, and hastened away rejoicing in his new found strength.

As he hurried along, some of the Jews saw him, and, going up to him, they said, "It is the Sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed."

He told them that the One who had made him well had told him to carry his bed. He knew that, whoever it was who had healed him, he was a good man, and if it was wrong for him to carry his bed, this man would not have told him to do so.

They asked him who had made him well, but he could not tell them, for Jesus had mingled with the crowd.

He knew it was through the mercy of the God that he had received strength, so he went to the temple to give thanks to God. Many people, when God shows mercy to them, forget to thank Him, and instead of turning and obeying Him, go on in sin. We should never neglect to thank God for the blessings He daily gives us.

After the Jews had discovered that it was Jesus who had healed the man, they sought to kill Him. More and more did they hate Him because He obeyed God's rules and not theirs, and they tried every way to find an excuse for killing Him.

Jesus said to them, "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work."

God does not stop His work on Sabbath days. The sun still shines, and flowers bloom. The grass and grain and fruit keep growing. The rivers continue to flow. Rain or snow often falls on the earth on Sabbath days, and any work that is for the good of man still goes on.

At another time Jesus entered into the synagogue on the Sabbath. A man was there who had a withered hand. The Jews watched Jesus very closely to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath day.

He knew their thoughts, and He said to the man with the withered hand, "Stand forth."

As the man stood beside Him, He turned to the Jews and said, "Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath day, or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" The Jews could not answer, for they knew it was right to do good on the Sabbath day.

He looked upon them, and was grieved because their hearts were so hard, and He said to the man with the withered hand, "Stretch forth thine hand," and as he stretched it forth it became whole as the other one.

"Then the Jews took counsel with the Herodians how they might destroy Him."

Again Jesus healed on the Sabbath day. This also took place in the synagogue. This time it was a woman whom He healed. She had been bowed together for eighteen years, and could not raise herself up. No doubt she had suffered greatly.

Jesus saw her, and called her to Him. That is the way Jesus does. He sees when we are in trouble, and helps us out of it if we will only let Him. He said to her, "Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity" (Luke 13:12).

And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she raised herself up straight before Him, and began praising God.

The ruler of the synagogue was very indignant, although almost everybody else was very glad, because Jesus had healed this woman on the Sabbath day. In angry tones he said to the people, "There are six days in which men ought to work; in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day."

Jesus then answered him and said, "Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall and lead him away to watering?"

"And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" (Luke 13: 15-16).

And when He had said these things, His enemies were ashamed, but all the people rejoiced for the glorious things He had done.

Jesus always comes off victorious. So do they who trust fully in Him. He never lost a battle. He conquered Satan. He triumphed over death and today He sits at God's right

hand in heaven ruling the world. He lives in the hearts of all true followers and helps to repel each attack of the Evil One.

FOLLOW ME

AT THIS time everybody in the land of Palestine was hearing of the wonderful teachings and miracles of Jesus.

So well known had He become that multitudes of people followed Him. It was difficult for Him to find a time when He could be alone.

Some followed Him because they loved Him, and wanted to hear His words; others followed to see the miracles He performed; and still others followed because they hated Him, and watched that they might find some fault in Him for which they might accuse Him.

There is only one reason why we should follow Jesus. We follow Him because we love Him, and want to serve Him, and listen to His words. It would be selfish for us to follow Him for just the good that He would do us, but we follow just because we love our Savior.

The Jewish church was wrong because it was not teaching the truths of God, but it was teaching the sayings of men. Only the

blood of Jesus can cleanse our hearts from sin. Only His power can keep us from sinning, but the Jews depended upon their own works to save them.

Jesus wanted to establish God's truths in the earth, and He chose men to whom He could teach these truths. Some of these very men who learned from Him the lessons He taught have written them in a Book, which has printed on its cover these words — HOLY BIBLE. By reading that Book, we know the words of Jesus, and learn that He would have us become followers of Him.

Jesus chose these men with much care. He had spent the night in the mountain praying to God, and when the day appeared He called "unto Him whom He would," and chose twelve apostles to learn of Him. Some of the ones He chose had been following Him from the time He came from the wilderness after His battle with Satan.

He did not choose a single Jewish leader. He did not choose these men because they were wealthy or educated, but the Son of God chose from among all the people of the earth twelve humble, common men to be His followers. Some were fishermen, and one was a despised publican, and all were of humble homes.

There were "Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, his brother; James, the son of Zebedee, and John, his brother;

"Philip, and Bartholomew, Thomas, and Matthew, the publican; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddeus;

"Simon, the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him" (Matt. 10:2-4).

A certain man came to Jesus and said, "Master, I will follow thee whithersoever Thou goest." This man had probably seen the miracles of Jesus, and thought it would be easy to follow such a Master. But Jesus does not want a disciple who is looking for an easy place, for He once said, "Whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:27).

So He said to the scribe, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head" (Matt. 8:20).

One time Jesus said to a man, "Follow me," but the man said, "Suffer me first to go and bury my father." Jesus made this man understand that there was nothing in the world so important as obeying Him. God is our Creator and our Savior, and we owe obe-

dience to Him first of all. If we obey Him, we are sure to be right in everything else.

At another time a young man came running and kneeled down before Jesus and said, "Good Master, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"

Jesus told him to keep the commandments, and he said he had kept them from his youth up.

Jesus then said, "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven, and come and follow me" (Matt. 19:21).

But this young man did not follow Him, for he did not want to give up the things of this world. So "he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions."

He did not think about the great possessions in heaven that Jesus had left for his sake, and he would not learn the lesson that Jesus would have taught him.

Jesus would have said to him as He says to us, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal.

"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth cor-

rupt and where thieves do not break through nor steal" (Matt. 6:19-20).

Some time in the life of everyone comes the call to follow Jesus. Not given in the flesh as He spoke to His disciples, but when He went away He promised that God would send another Comforter which is the Holy Ghost; and He is in the world today, calling people to follow Jesus. Shall not we, like the disciples, leave all that is sinful and immediately follow Him? Shall not we decide to be a follower of Christ instead of a follower of Satan?

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

AFTER Jesus had chosen His twelve disciples, and while He was yet on the mountain, He sat down, as was the custom of teachers among the Jews, and taught the great multitudes of people that had gathered about Him. This is what He taught them:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:3).

Blessed means happy, and Jesus says the people who are happy are the ones who have chosen to be on God’s side and who depend upon Him to lead them every step of the way through this life. They know they cannot live righteous lives in their own strength, so they just trust God to guide them. The promise is an entrance into heaven.

“Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted” (Matt. 5:4).

Happy are they that mourn after God; the ones who are sorry for their sins and want God to forgive them. When you feel like that, then you have the promise of God that you shall be comforted, and God always keeps His promise.



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“Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth” (Matt. 5:5).

Happy are they who have a quiet spirit; not proud and overbearing, but knowing you are just like everybody — a creature of God — and that you receive all the good things you have, as do they, from His hand. When you are meek and lowly in heart, the promise is you shall inherit the kingdom of God. To the Jews “the earth” or “the land” meant the land of Canaan, and Canaan was a type of the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled” (Matt. 5:6).

Our bodies need food and drink to keep us alive, and our souls need food just the same as our bodies need it. The earth supplies food for our bodies, and heaven supplies the food for our souls. Heavenly things cannot satisfy the body: neither can earthly things satisfy the soul. When we hunger and thirst for a knowledge of God, and to be like Him, we have the promise that we shall be filled, and He fills us with His Holy Spirit.

“Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy” (Matt. 5:7).

God will not show mercy to people who

will not show mercy to others. He will not forgive us if we do not forgive others. But we have the promise that if we are merciful we shall have mercy shown to us.

“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God” (Matt. 5:8).

Happy are they who have a clean heart: whose thoughts are not evil: whose pride and selfishness and temper and all other sins have been washed away by the blood of Jesus, for they are the ones who shall see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God” (Matt. 5:9).

Happy are they who delight in peace, instead of strife, and are doing all they can to keep peace, and have things run along smoothly wherever they may be. They are called the children of God.

“Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:10).

God hates sin in any form, and Satan hates righteousness. There is evil in every heart that has not turned to God. When once we turn to God, Satan in the hearts of others who have not turned may make it hard for us, for he hates righteousness; but Jesus says

that the ones who are persecuted are blessed, and it is because we know we are doing the will of God, and we have the promise of the Kingdom of Heaven.

“Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

“Rejoice, and be exceedingly glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you” (Matt. 5:11-12).

If people say evil things about us, we must remember that Jesus suffered for our sakes, and we must be willing to suffer for Him. We are to rejoice and be glad for our reward will be great when we enter into heaven.

Jesus says His followers are “the salt of the earth,” and “the light of the world.” We are to be different from the people of the world. He says: “Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.

“That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh His sun to shine on the evil and on the good, and

sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust” (Matt. 5:44-45).

“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect” (Matt. 5:48).

When we give to the poor we are not to give in order to have people praise us, or have them think we are generous, but we give to help the needy and to please God without any thought of praise from people. God will see the gift: “and thy Father which seeth in secret, himself shall reward thee openly” (Matt. 6:4).

When we pray we are to enter into some quiet place and talk to God as we would talk to a friend. This is the prayer Jesus has given us:

“Our father which art in heaven, hallowed by thy name,

“Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen” (Matt. 6:9-13).

Jesus says we cannot serve two masters. We cannot serve Christ and Satan. We must either be on one side or the other. On which

side are you going to be in this battle of life?

Jesus says not to be anxious what you are going to eat or what you are going to drink or what you are going to wear.

“Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?” (Matt. 6:26).

“And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow, they toil not, neither do they spin:

“And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

“Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?” (Matt. 6:28-30).

We should seek to know God first, and He will add all things that we need.

Jesus had been teaching the people all these things and as He closed His sermon He said, “Therefore, whosoever heareth these sayings and doeth them, I will liken Him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.

“And the rain descended and the floods

came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

“And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand.

“And the rains descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house; and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

We will be either like the wise man, or we will be like the foolish man.

LESSONS BY PARABLES

JESUS taught His disciples many lessons by using parables. He would tell them something they could understand, but back of the story He had given them, they would find some wonderful lessons. He spoke to the people in parables, too, but they did not always get the lessons He would have them learn, for a great many of them did not want to learn them.

Once He told them that a sower of seed went out into the field, and, as he took the seeds in his hands and scattered them, some fell by the wayside or path where people walked and the fowls of the air came and ate them.

Some fell on stony places, where they had not much earth in which to grow. They immediately sprung up, but when the sun came out they withered away and died because they had no root.

Some fell among thorns: and the thorns sprang up with the seeds and choked them.

But some fell on good ground that had

been plowed, and well prepared for them, and they brought forth much grain. .

The disciples of Jesus came to Him, and asked Him the meaning of this parable. He said the seed was the Word of God.

He spoke of some seed falling by the wayside. They are the people whose hearts are like the hard soil in the path. They hear the Word of God, but pay little attention to it, but what good thoughts they have received, Satan comes and takes away from them because they do not ask God to help them keep the good thoughts and help them learn more about Him.

The stony places where the seeds fell, are like the hearts of men who hear the words of Jesus and at first receive them joyfully, and believe in Him, but soon refuse to follow Him because the way is not an easy one.

Some seed fell among thorns. Some people hear the word of God and start to be followers of Jesus, but soon give up being His disciples because they care more for the pleasures and riches of this life than they care for Him. They allow these things to keep out thoughts about Jesus. Their hearts are like the soil which had thorns in it and which kept the seeds from growing.

But the good ground that was well prepared for the seed, and which brought forth much grain, is like the good hearts of people who hear the words of Jesus and remember them, and who would rather obey God than obey Satan.

Jesus told the people another parable. He said the kingdom of heaven was like a man which sowed good seed in his field, and while he slept after his day's work, an enemy came into the field and sowed tares, which are weeds, among the wheat.

When the wheat grew above the ground the tares grew also, and the servants, noticing many weeds among the wheat, wondered how this could be, knowing that their master had sown only good seed. So they went to him and said, "Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?" (Matt. 13:27).

The man guessed correctly and said, "An enemy hath done this." The servants asked if they should go and weed out the tares, but the master said no, for if they rooted out the weeds they would be in danger of rooting out the wheat also.

He said he would let them grow together until the harvest, then when the wheat was

cut by the reaper they would gather out the tares, bind them in bundles, and burn them; but the wheat would be stored in his barn.

After Jesus had spoken to them in parables, He sent the multitudes away, and, while He was alone with His disciples, they asked Him the meaning of the parable of the wheat and the tares.

He said he that sowed the good seed was Himself; the field is the world; the good seed are the people who obey God; the tares are the people who obey the wicked one; the enemy is Satan; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

“As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world” (Matt. 13:40).

“Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father” (Matt. 13:43).

One day Jesus told the people a parable about a rich man and a beggar. The rich man had everything that he wanted. He was always well dressed and his dinners every day were like a feast.

At his gate lay a beggar whose body was covered with sores which were licked by the dogs on the street. He lay there that he might

be given enough food from the rich man's table to keep him alive.

One day the beggar died and the angels came to earth and carried his spirit to Paradise.

The rich man died also, but he went to the place of the wicked; and, looking away off, he saw the beggar in Paradise with Abraham. He begged Abraham to send the beggar to him that he might dip the tip of his finger in water, and drop it on his tongue to cool it, for he was in great torment.

But Abraham said, "Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivest thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

"And, beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence" (Luke 16:25-26).

Then the rich man asked that Lazarus might be sent back to the earth to tell his five brothers, who were probably living the same kind of a life he had lived, about this dreadful place that he was in; but Abraham told him his brothers could read the Bible and find out about it.

But the man said that if someone would go to them from the dead, they would repent; but Abraham knew that if people will not read the Bible and believe it, neither will they believe what anyone says about God's plans, though one rose from the dead to tell them. So Lazarus was not sent to earth.

While he was living, the rich man had as good a chance to live a life which would prepare him for heaven as the beggar did, but he chose to spend it in worldly enjoyment instead of seeking to live a holy life.

Jesus told another parable, showing that a life of selfishness and pleasure will never fit anyone for heaven. This was about another rich man. His ground had brought forth so much grain and his fruit trees had borne so much fruit that he did not know where to put it all.

This man never thought about God's goodness to him, that the only reason he had such an abundant crop was because God "maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matt. 5:45).

This man wondered what he would do with all his grain, for his barns were not large enough to hold it. After some thinking, he

decided what he would do. He would pull down his old barns and build greater ones.

Then the thought came to him that now he had a great deal of money; enough to last him as long as he lived and for the rest of his life he would take his ease, "eat, drink, and be merry."

How foolish he was to want to spend his life in enjoying himself, when all about him were people who needed his help. God would have given him a better work to do than that, if he had only asked Him to plan his work for him. But this man was not thinking about God, but wanted to make his own plans, and his plan had always been to enjoy himself.

But in the parable, God is thinking about him, and He said to him, "This night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" (Luke 12:20).

That very night he died, and no person, who lives only to please himself, and thinks not of pleasing God, can ever enter heaven.

Everything we have comes from God, and He does not want us to be selfish with the things He has given us. If God should cover the sun with darkness and not allow it to shine upon the earth and keep the rain and

snow from falling, nothing could grow in the ground, and after a time people would die for want of food and water.

But God loves us and gives us everything we need. He gives us everything to make us happy. He has even prepared heaven for us after we die, and all He asks us to do is to thank Him for all His goodness to us, and to love Jesus and obey Him while we live in this world.

One day Jesus was teaching a lesson on forgiveness. He said there was a man who owed a certain king a great sum of money, and the king wanted him to pay the debt.

They lived in a country where it was lawful for a man and everything he had to be sold if he could not pay what money he owed.

When the king found out that this man did not have the money with which to pay the debt, he ordered the man and his wife and his children and everything he had to be sold, and the money given to the king.

When the man heard what the king had said, he fell down at the feet of the king and begged him not to sell them, but to give him a little time, and he promised he would pay him everything he owed him.

Then the king felt sorry for him and let him go and told him he need not pay the money at all, for he forgave him the debt.

What a splendid king he was, to forgive the man everything. Do you know that is the way the King whom we serve does? We go to Him and tell Him of our sins and He forgives them all. But after God forgives our sins we must not do like this man did, for he refused to forgive others.

He left the king and went to a man who owed him a small sum of money, and laid hands on him and took him by the throat and said to him, "Pay me that thou owest."

The man fell down at his feet as he himself had fallen at the feet of the king, and begged him to give him a little time, and he promised he would pay him everything he owed him.

But the man would not let him go as the king had done to him, but he put the man in prison until he should pay the debt.

The servants of the king heard what had been done, and they came and told the king. He called the man to him and told him he was a wicked servant. He said he had forgiven him because he begged him to forgive him,

then he asked if he did not think he should have forgiven the man who owed him, and was not able to pay. If the king had been merciful to him, should he not have been merciful to others?

The king was very much displeased, and told the man he would have to pay him all the money he had at first owed him.

Jesus closed the parable by saying, "So likewise shall my Heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not everyone his brother their trespasses" (Matt. 18:35).

God forgives us, and we must forgive others. How can we expect God to forgive us if we will not forgive others? Peter asked Jesus how often he should forgive his brothers who had sinned against him. He asked if he should forgive him seven times.

Jesus told Peter he should not only forgive him seven times, but he should forgive him seventy times seven. It is best not to wonder how often you should forgive one, but forgive them every time, no matter how often that may be. That is what Jesus meant.

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

THE Savior often spoke of Himself as a shepherd and of the disciples as His sheep. He said, "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine."

In the land in which Christ lived the shepherd stayed with his flock day and night. Through the day he led them over the rocky hills and through the forests into green pastures, and at night he guarded them from wild beasts or robbers that might be lurking near.

Very carefully and tenderly he watched the sick and feeble ones, and no matter how large his flock he had a name for each sheep and each one knew its name. They would come at the call of their shepherd, but the voice of a stranger they would not follow, but would flee from him, for they knew not the voice of strangers.

Jesus says He is our good shepherd and He knows His sheep. He knows every one of His followers by name. He knows the very house in which we live. He knows when we are sick or in trouble, and He cares for us as

carefully and as tenderly as a shepherd would care for his sheep.

Jesus says His sheep know Him. When we turn from sin and take Jesus as our shepherd and follow His voice instead of the voice of Satan, we will know Him and love Him and be glad for a heavenly shepherd who will carefully lead us over all the hard places of life.

The shepherds always went before the sheep and met the dangers first. Sometimes they were killed while caring for their flocks.

Jesus gave His life for His sheep. He died for us. He went forth in the world and met all the dangers and overcame Satan and all his temptations that we who follow might also overcome and not yield to the temptings of the Evil One.

The Savior has other sheep besides the ones who are safely following Him. Some of His flock have gone astray and He is calling for them to come back. We were all wandering from God at one time because of sin in our hearts, and we were not of the flock that followed Jesus the good shepherd. But if, when we heard His voice, we turned away from sin and followed Him, we now belong to His flock.

But the others: the ones who have gone astray and have not returned. Does Jesus care



THE GOOD SHEPHERD

that they have wandered from Him and are living in sin? Oh, yes, He said when a wandering one came back to God there would be joy among the angels in heaven.

If a shepherd had a hundred sheep and one of them should be lost out on the hills, he would leave all the others in the fold and seek for the missing one. He could not rest until it was found.

Out in the night and into the storm He would go seeking the lost one. No one but the shepherd himself would know what waters he had crossed nor what steep, slippery places he had climbed until he found his shivering, bleating sheep and carried it home in his arms. He would not complain of his long, cold search, but he would joyfully say to his friends and his neighbors, "Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost."

So will all heaven rejoice over one sinner that repenteth and follows Christ the Good Shepherd. He is seeking for every unsaved one, for He came to seek and to save that which is lost.

There was no complaint in the heart of the Savior that the treatment He received on earth was so cruel, or that the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane was so intense or His

death on the cross, so painful; but He gladly endured it all that we might be brought back to His fold.

If we have accepted Christ as our Savior and are following Him, we can say as did David when he wrote the Twenty-third Psalm,

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want,

“He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.

“He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the
paths of righteousness for his name’s
sake.

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me; thy rod and thy
staff they comfort me.

“Thou preparest a table before me in the pres-
ence of mine enemies: thou anointest
my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life: and I will dwell
in the house of the Lord forever.”



Jesus Teaching by the Seaside

JESUS ON THE SEA

SOME of the parables of Jesus were spoken by Him as He sat in a boat pushed a little way from the shore, while the multitudes listened as they sat on the seaside.

All around Him were objects that brought to His mind the subject of His parables. Before Him lay the fields, where could be seen the sower sowing his seed. Perhaps this also suggested to Him the parable of the wheat and the tares, as He thought of Satan sowing wicked words and thoughts in the hearts of the people while He was sowing good ones.

In His mind He could see the time of harvest when the reapers would gather the tares into bundles and burn them, but the wheat would be gathered into the barn.

But He could see still farther than that. He could see, in His mind's eye, the end of the world, when the angels as reapers would gather for punishment all who had received in their hearts the bad thoughts sown by Satan instead of the good thoughts sown by Himself.

How sad it is to know that Jesus came to the earth to save people from such punish-

ment and a great many of them will not receive His words.

At the close of the day, when Jesus had spoken some of these parables, He said to His disciples, "Let us pass over unto the other side."

As they sailed away from the shore, the people started for their homes, and Jesus, wearied with the day's work of teaching, laid His head upon the cushion of the seat in the boat, and soon was fast asleep.

While the disciples were rowing toward the other shore, they noticed a great storm coming. The winds began to blow about them fiercely, and the waves dashed into the boat. They were in great danger of being sunk in the sea, and they were badly frightened.

With the tempest and darkness upon them, and the foaming waves about them, Jesus slept quietly on. Soon the frightened disciples came to Him, and, awakening Him, said, "Master, Master, we perish."

He arose from His sleep and spoke to the wind and the waves, and immediately the tempest ceased, and over the waves came a great calm.

And He said to His disciples, "Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?" (Mark 4:40).

They were very much afraid, and said to one another, "What manner of man is this! for He commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey Him" (Luke 8:25).

God and Jesus made the wind and waves and they obey the Divine voice. Jesus was not going to let His disciples perish. He always takes care of His own, but He thought His disciples should have had a little more faith in Him, and have believed He would not let them be lost.

He is pleased when we believe in Him. He wants us to always trust Him, and believe that He will never fail us or forget us. He is glad when we call to Him for help, and He always gives it. Never forget to ask Him for His help daily.

At another time Jesus spent a very busy day healing the sick and feeding the multitude. When evening came He told His disciples to get into the boat and go before Him to the other side of the sea, while He sent the people home.

After the disciples had gone and the people had scattered, Jesus went up the mountain

side to pray. He liked to be alone when He talked with God, and in several places in the Bible we read of Him praying at night and early in the morning. We should take Jesus as an example and pattern our own life after His life.

While Jesus was alone in the mountain, the disciples were in the ship in the midst of the sea, tossed about by the waves. They were in danger of being buried by them, for they sometimes covered the ship. They could make no headway against the wind, and they were very much distressed.

Though Jesus was praying in the mountain, and the disciples were far away in the midst of the waves, He knew they were in trouble, and as He always goes to the help of His true disciples, so He did this time; and very early in the morning, while it was perhaps quite dark, He went to them, walking on the top of the water.

When the disciples saw Him, they were afraid and said, "It is a spirit." But Jesus immediately spoke to them and said, "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid" (Matt. 14:27).

How glad they were to hear the voice of



“LORD SAVE ME”

Jesus, and how their hearts were filled with hope and joy as He said, "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid."

Peter now knew that they were perfectly safe, and his fear vanished. He was so eager to get to Him that he said, "Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water."

And Jesus said, "Come." So Peter climbed out of the ship and started to walk to Jesus on top of the water; but instead of keeping his eyes on Jesus, he looked down at the waves, and, becoming afraid, he began to sink, and cried out, "Lord, save me."

Jesus immediately stretched out His hand and caught him, and upheld him.

The reason Peter began to sink was because he had not enough faith to believe that Jesus could keep him on top of the water. He had enough faith to start with, but Satan put doubt in his mind.

Let us be careful that we do not allow Satan to plant the seeds of doubt and fear in our hearts.

When Jesus, with Peter, entered the ship, the wind stopped blowing and the sea became calm, and they all worshipped Him, saying, "Of a truth thou art the Son of God" (Matt. 14:33).

JESUS FEEDING THE HUNGRY

JOHN THE BAPTIST had been put in prison by King Herod. This was not the same king who had sent his soldiers to Bethlehem about thirty years before, seeking to destroy Jesus, whom he feared would become king of the Jews. This was another King Herod, but he was a very wicked man, too, and his wickedness helped to bring about the beheading of John the Baptist.

If he had been a righteous king, he would never have been guilty of this murder, for John the Baptist, you remember, was a man of God, and did not deserve the death this wicked king permitted. When one begins to sin, he may be sure Satan will lead him into all sorts of trouble.

Herod was very sorry to have John the Baptist killed, but he had promised a certain maid that she could have whatever she wanted, even if she should ask for the half of his kingdom.

She hurried out to ask her mother what she should ask from the king, and her mother, who was a very wicked woman, told her to

ask for the head of John the Baptist. This she did, and the king, because he had made her such a foolish promise, brought about this cruel murder.

Jesus and His disciples were deeply grieved when they heard of it, and, being very weary and wanting to get away from the crowd awhile, Jesus said to His disciples, "Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest awhile."

They went by boat about six miles to find a quiet resting place, and when they reached the spot they had in mind and Jesus left the boat, He found, instead of solitude, a multitude of people on the bank waiting for His coming.

The people had seen them as they sailed, and, knowing it was Jesus, left the towns and villages, and, running faster on the land than they were sailing on the sea, they reached the place selected in time to welcome Him.

Jesus and His disciples had badly needed rest and quiet, but His great, loving heart was full of pity when He saw before Him a mass of people whose hungry hearts longed to hear His words, and whose wasted bodies needed His divine touch to bring them back to health and happiness. He could not turn

them away. So he healed their sick and taught them the words of life.

How often Jesus forgot His tired body when doing the work God had sent Him to do. How forgetful of self we should be when doing the work He has left us.

The day wore away and evening came, and the people still stayed on to hear the words of truth and see the sick made well. They had had nothing to eat, and Jesus said to Philip, "Whence shall we buy bread that these may eat?"

Philip did not know what to do. Andrew said there was a little boy there who had brought five loaves and two fishes; but he said, "What are they among so many?"

They did indeed seem few, for the fishes were small and the loaves were only thin barley cakes.

Jesus told them to have the people sit down on the grass, and when they were all seated, He took the five loaves and two fishes and thanked God for them. He began to give them to the disciples, and the disciples gave to the multitude, and they kept giving out like that until everyone had all they wanted to eat.

Jesus, through His wonderful power, had fed about five thousand men besides many

JESUS FEEDING THE HUNGRY 99

women and children, with only five barley loaves and two small fishes, and what was left over filled twelve baskets.

Sitting on the mountain side not far from the sea of Galilee, Jesus, at another time, fed the multitude. This time He fed about four thousand men, besides women and children.

People had brought their friends who were lame, and blind, and dumb, and crippled, and sick, and laid them at the feet of Jesus, and He healed them.

They had listened to Him for three days, and the food they had brought was all gone. The food the disciples had brought was all gone, too, except seven loaves, and a few little fishes.

He would not send them away hungry lest they would be too weak to get home; so, as before, after they were all seated on the grass, Jesus took the loaves and fishes and thanked God for them. He divided them and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave to the multitude until all had enough. What was left from this meal filled seven baskets.

No synagogue was large enough to hold the people who came to hear the words of

the Savior, and His preaching was done mostly in the open air.

While standing on the seaside one day, with many people about Him eager to hear His teaching, He noticed two boats near the shore which belonged to some fishermen. One of the fishermen was Peter, and one of the boats belonged to him.

Jesus entered into that boat and told Peter to push the boat out just a little from the land. He sat down and taught the people, while they stood or sat on the shore.

He knew that Peter and his partners were somewhat discouraged, because they had spent the night in fishing and had caught nothing, so when He had ceased speaking to the people He told Peter to row out into deeper water and let his fishing net down as they went.

Peter said, "Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless, at thy word, I will let down the net."

Peter considered Jesus a great Teacher, whose commands should be obeyed. He listened closely to His teachings, and readily obeyed His orders.

To hear attentively and obey cheerfully

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are duties we owe to all who are in authority over us.

As they drew the net to the shore, it began to break, for it enclosed a multitude of fishes. They beckoned excitedly to their partners, who were in the other boat, to come and help them. Both boats were as full as they could carry and were almost ready to sink. Everybody who saw what Jesus had done was astonished at the number of fishes that had been caught.

If Peter had refused to let down the net, saying there was no use; they had fished all night, and there were no fish near, nothing would have been done. Neither can Jesus bring into our lives the blessings He would give us unless we, like Peter, are ready to instantly obey Him.

• POWER OVER DEMONS

ONE time, when Jesus had crossed the lake and landed on the other side, a man who had an evil spirit met Him. This man was so fierce that people dared not go near him. He lived among the graves, and often he had broken the chains with which he had been bound.

This man was in the power of this evil spirit within him. The demon had control of the man, and made him do whatever he liked. Night and day he was in the mountains, or among the graves, crying and cutting himself with stones.

If we permit Satan to take control of us, he will make us do whatever he wants us to do and his desires are always evil. He begins to get us in his power by urging us to do some little sin — to disobey or tell an untruth or use bad words. He knows if he gets us to sin once it will be easier to get us to sin again. And so he keeps on coaxing us to sin again and again until he has us under his control like the demon had this poor man.

The way to keep out of the clutches of

Satan is to boldly say no to all the coaxings to sin that come to you, and allow Jesus to control you. We want nothing to do with Satan, and the boy or girl who takes Jesus to lead them through this life is a boy or girl of great courage, and they are sure to win in all the battles of life, for they have a great Commander.

When the man saw Jesus away off, he ran to Him, fell down before Him, and worshipped Him. Then the evil spirit, fearing Jesus was going to destroy him, for he knew He had had all power, cried with a loud voice, "What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God, most high? I beseech thee, torment me not" (Luke 8:28).

Jesus had said, "Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit," and he begged that he and the other evil spirits in the man might not be sent out of that country, and asked to be permitted to enter into a herd of hogs that was feeding on the mountain.

And Jesus said, "Go." When they left the man they entered the swine, and the whole herd ran violently down the steep mountain side into the sea and perished in the waters.

The men who kept the swine were greatly frightened, and fled to the city, telling what

had happened, to everyone they met, and the people flocked about Jesus to see what had been done.

There they found quietly sitting at the feet of Jesus the man in his right mind, who a short time before had been under the control of evil spirits.

How quickly demons flee at the command of Jesus. Nothing can break the bonds with which Satan binds his victims except the power of Jesus.

As Jesus was leaving their country, the man whom He had healed begged to go with Him, but Jesus told him to go back home to his friends and tell them what great things the Lord had done for him.

He went back to the city and gladly told how Jesus had driven out of him the evil spirits, and all the people were surprised to see him in his right mind again.

Satan likes to have his evil spirits dwell in the hearts of people, making them proud, dishonest, and selfish; and if any such spirit as that finds a home in our hearts, we have only to ask Jesus to take it out, and believe that He will do it, and He will. His own Spirit then will dwell in our hearts and control us.

As a great change came over this man

when the demons were cast out by Jesus, so a great change comes over us when He takes the evil out of our hearts and fills us with His own blessed Spirit.

At one time Jesus took Peter and John and went up into a high mountain. While He prayed, the eyes of the three disciples became heavy with sleep, and when they awoke they saw Jesus transfigured before them. He was changed. His face shone with a heavenly light and His raiment was white as snow. Moses and Elias, whom God had sent from heaven, talked with Him about His death, which should take place when He should reach the city of Jerusalem.

Soon a bright cloud surrounded them and a voice out of the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

When the disciples heard the voice, they became very much afraid and fell on their faces to the ground, but Jesus came and touched them, and said, "Arise, and be not afraid." When they opened their eyes they saw no one but Jesus.

Going down the mountain side, He told them to tell no man what they had seen until He had risen from the dead. They kept the secret, but they wondered among themselves

what He meant by saying He would rise from the dead; for many people thought He would proclaim Himself King when He entered Jerusalem.

Reaching the foot of the mountain, they found the disciples they had left there and a great multitude of people. One man coming out from the crowd knelt before Jesus and asked Him to have mercy on his son.

He said his son had a spirit in him that made him dumb and foam at the mouth and gnash with his teeth, and he was in continual danger of being drowned or burned, for some times he would fall into the water, and sometimes into the fire.

Jesus said, "Bring him to me."

As they were bringing the boy, the demon within him saw Jesus, and became so greatly enraged that he caused the boy to foam at the mouth and fall on the ground.

Jesus asked the father how long his son had been so afflicted, and the father said ever since he was a little child, and he continued, "If thou canst do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

And Jesus said to him, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth" (Mark 9:23).

And the man, with tears running down his cheeks, said, "Lord, I believe." He meant he believed that Jesus had the power of God to cast the demon out of his son.

Jesus spoke to the spirit, when He saw the man believed, and said, "Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him."

Hearing the command of Jesus, and knowing that all must obey that voice, the demon in great rage again threw the boy into convulsions, and cried and came out of him. The boy was so weak that he lay on the ground like one dead, and many people standing by said, "He is dead."

But Jesus stooped down and took him by the hand, lifted him up, and gave him to his father. He was a well boy, and forever after free from the power of the demon.

One day, when Jesus was traveling through the country near the cities of Tyre and Sidon, He went into a house to rest, and be alone awhile.

The life of Jesus was a busy one. He was ever living to help others, and His body was, at times, very weary. He needed this rest, but the world was full of such helpless

people that He could scarcely find time to be alone.

This time it was a woman, whose daughter had an unclean spirit, who had heard of His wonderful works, and came and fell at His feet. She was not a Jew, and Jesus' earthly ministry was to be spent especially among the Jewish people. The Gospel was for everyone, but it was God's plan to have it preached to the Jews first, for they should have been most ready to receive it.

As this woman fell at His feet, she cried, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil."

He did not answer her, and His disciples came to Him and said, "Send her away; for she crieth after us."

Jesus turned to the woman and said, "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel:" meaning He had been sent especially to the Jewish people.

But she would not keep from pleading. She knew He could heal her daughter, and with a great love for her child in her heart, and knowing that if Jesus did not help her there was no other to whom she could go, she

worshipped Him and said, "Lord, help me" (Matt. 15:25).

Jesus intended to help her all the time, but He wanted to test her faith. He wanted her to really believe He could heal her child.

Our faith in Jesus is sometimes tested, but we must be as firm in our belief that He will help us as was this praying, pleading, mother.

So He told her He had come to bring salvation to the Jews and it was not well that He should take from them and give to her who was not a Jew.

But the woman replied that all she wanted was the healing of her child by His mighty power and this would help her greatly and be no loss to the Jews. She did not want to rob them of anything, but she wanted what they could spare.

And Jesus, well pleased with her answer, and knowing her faith in Him, said, "O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt."

And the woman returned home and found her daughter lying upon the bed, and the evil spirit had gone out of her to return no more. Jesus has all power. He is able to do all things.

Jesus came as a Savior to the Jews first, but He is also a Savior to all who will believe in Him.

GIVING SIGHT TO THE BLIND

THERE were many blind people in the land of the Jews. In hardly any other country could so many be found. They would sit every day by the side of the road or on the streets of the city, begging from every one who passed by. Some of them had been born blind, and some had become blind, and most of them were very, very poor.

The ones who had been born blind did not know in what a beautiful world God had placed them. They never knew how green the grass was nor how white or red or yellow were the flowers. They never had seen the brightness of the sun nor looked upon the beauties of the world at night.

Oh, it is sad indeed to be born blind; not to be able to run and play and see where you are going, but always to have to be led or feel your way by holding onto things with which you are familiar.

But, sad as it is to be born blind, there is something even worse than that. To have blackness before your eyes at all times is not nearly so bad as to have a heart full of the

blackness of sin. Never to see the beautiful earth and sky that God has made is not nearly so bad as it is not to know that you are God's child and are perfectly safe in His keeping.

One can be very happy, even though blind, if only he has permitted God to fill his heart full of His love; but one can never be really happy unless he loves God, although he may have the brightest of eyes.

While we are glad God has given us eyes with which to see His wonderful world, we are more glad that He has given us a heart of love for Him.

These blind people in the land where Jesus was, were in a sad condition; for they not only could not see, but they did not know Jesus. Many who had always had their sight did not know Jesus, either. So none of these were really happy.

Jesus looked with pity upon the great crowds of people who had not been taught to accept Him as their Savior, and He said they were scattered like sheep who had no shepherd. He began to teach them many things about God and Himself, and many whose hearts were filled with love for Him followed Him.

Doing miracles was one of His ways of

teaching that He was the Son of God. He did things that no one else but God could do. One day Jesus saw a man who had been born blind, and He took clay and put it on the eyes of the blind man and told him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam.

The man immediately went and washed in the water and his eyes were opened. His neighbors and friends, who knew he had always been blind, gathered about him, and, seeing his eyes so bright, they were surprised and hardly knew him. They questioned among themselves if it were really he or was it someone else.

Some said, yes, this is the man who was once blind: others said, It looks like him; but the man himself said that he was really the man who had been blind from his birth.

They were eager to know how a person who had been born blind could receive his sight, so they asked him, "How were thine eyes opened?"

And he answered, "A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight" (John 9:11).

Some time later Jesus met him again. He

had heard that the Pharisees had cast the man out of the synagogue because he had declared that Jesus was from God, and that it was Jesus who had opened his eyes.

Jesus said to him, "Dost thou believe on the Son of God?"

He answered, "Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?"

Jesus said, "Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee."

And the man said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshipped Him and his heart was filled with love for Jesus. He was a very happy man, for he had his sight, but, best of all, he had love for God, without which no one can be really happy.

Another beggar, Blind Bartimaeus, while sitting by the roadside near the city of Jericho one day, heard a noise as of a great company coming along the road. He listened and wondered who it could be. Finally he asked some one standing by who was coming, and when they told him it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me." They told him to keep quiet, but he cried out again, "Thou Son of David, have mercy on me."

Jesus heard him, as He always hears the

cry of any one who calls to Him, and He stopped. The crowd stopped, and He commanded that they call this blind man to Him.

And they said to the blind man, "Be of good comfort, rise: he calleth thee."

How glad this poor blind beggar was to hear this. He had faith to believe that Jesus would give him the desire of his heart. So, casting away the garment that was about him, he rose from the ground and was led to Jesus.

When He asked him what it was he wanted Him to do for him, he replied, "Lord, that I might receive my sight."

And He said to him, "Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole." He immediately received his sight and became a follower of Jesus.

As he mingled with the crowd, he praised God, and all the people, when they saw what had been done, praised God also.

Wherever Jesus went He found some good to be done, and so may we always find some good thing to do for some one else. There are many people in the world who need our help, and we should follow the example of our Savior.

When Jesus and His disciples came to the town of Bethsaida, they brought a blind man

to Him and begged Him to touch him that he might receive his sight.

And Jesus, ever willing to help, took him by the hand and led him out of the town. Putting His hands upon the eyes of the blind man, He asked him if he saw anything, and he replied that he saw men walking and they looked like trees.

He put His hands again on his eyes and made him look up, and his sight was restored perfectly, and he saw everything clearly. Jesus sent him to his home, which was not in the city, and told him not to go into the town nor tell it to any one in the town.

The people of Bethsaida had been very stubborn and ungrateful toward Jesus. He had done many mighty works there, but they would not forsake their sins and believe. He had come to be their Savior, but they would not be saved. He had come to be their Shepherd, but they would not follow Him. So the blind man was led outside the town to be healed, for the people of Bethsaida were unworthy to see any more of the miracles of Jesus.

Do you know there are many people all about us who daily see the things that God has made, and daily feed upon the food and

breathe the air He in His goodness and in His love has given us, and yet refuse to obey Him?

Many people know that Jesus is the Son of God, but they will not obey as the Spirit calls them to take up their cross and follow Him. Their hearts grow harder, and after a time the Spirit of God ceases to call them, and they are lost, because, like the people of Bethsaida, they were stubborn and ungrateful.

We must not allow our hearts to grow hard, but we must listen to the slightest call of the Spirit, and, like the blind men, we will receive light and love from Jesus when we obey.

RAISING THE DEAD

One spring day Jesus and His disciples, followed by a great number of people, traveled many miles to a city called Nain.

Nain was a small city with walls around it, and gates in the wall through which people might enter the city or leave it.

As Jesus and His disciples and the multitudes came near the gate, they saw a funeral procession coming out.

A dead man was being carried on a bier to the grave. He was a young man: the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. Many people were sorry for her and they were with her as they carried her son to the burying ground, which was outside the walls of the city.

Jesus saw her sorrow and there was pity in His heart for her. He went near and said, "Weep not."

He went near the bier on which the dead man lay and touched it. The men who carried him stood still. The funeral procession stopped, and Jesus said, "Young man, I say unto thee, Arise" (Luke 7:14).

And the young man who was dead and was being carried to his grave, sat up on the bier and began to speak and Jesus gave him to his mother.

When they saw this dead man brought back to life, a great fear fell on all the people, and they praised God, saying, "That a great prophet is risen up among us, and That God hath visited His people" (Luke 7:16).

Another time as Jesus was by the sea, and as usual, crowded by many people, a ruler of the synagogue by the name of Jairus came through the crowd, and, falling on his face before Jesus, said, "My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray Thee come and lay Thy hands on her, that she may be healed, and she shall live" (Mark 5:23).

This was his only daughter, and she was about twelve years old. "And Jesus went with him: and much people followed Him, and thronged Him" (Mark 5:24).

While they were on the way a messenger came from the ruler's house and said to Jairus, "Thy daughter is dead: Why troublest thou the Master any further?"

When Jesus heard what the people were saying, He said to the ruler of the synagogue, "Be not afraid, only believe."

The people were making a great noise in the house of the ruler after the death of the daughter. They were weeping and wailing, for whenever there was a death among them the poorest Jew was required to have at least two people who could blow the pipes or horns, and one woman who could make a great noise by weeping and moaning. Jairus was not a poor man, so there were probably many people making a noise.

Jesus reached the house, and, hearing all this tumult, He said, "Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth" (Mark 5:39).

That is the way Jesus spoke of her death. He was not going to leave her under the power of death, but would raise her from it as a person awakes from sleep.

The people laughed at Him, for they did not know what power He had. He had not allowed anyone to follow Him when He heard of her death except Peter, James and John. With these disciples and the father and mother of the child, He entered the room where she was lying. All other people He had ordered from the room. He took her by the hand and said, "Damsel, I say unto thee, arise."

Her spirit immediately came into her body, and she arose and was well. Jesus commanded that they give her something to eat.

No one has the power to bring the dead to life but God. Man can do nothing. He is only a creature. God is the Creator. He made all things and He has the power over all things whether they are dead or alive. To Him we owe a life of love and obedience.

In the little town of Bethany, in Judea, lived Mary and Martha and Lazarus. They were good friends of Jesus and He loved them. One day Lazarus was sick, and as he grew worse and worse his sisters became very much distressed about him. When they saw he was dangerously ill, they sent this message to Jesus, "Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick" (John 11:3).

Although the words touched the heart of Jesus, He could not leave the place where He was for two days; either because He was too busy with His teaching and healing, or because He was waiting for God to direct Him.

When the time came for Him to go to Bethany He said to His disciples, "Let us go into Judea again."

The Jews, especially in Jerusalem, were very angry with Jesus because of His teaching

the words of God, and His healing on the Sabbath day and His declaration that He was the Son of God.

Bethany was about two miles from Jerusalem, and, fearing the Jews would kill Jesus if He went to see Lazarus, the disciples said, "Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee, and goest thou thither again?"

They could not detain Him, so the disciples said they would go, too, that they might die with Him. When they reached Bethany they found Lazarus had been dead four days, and was buried, and many Jews were there trying to comfort Mary and Martha.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet Him and said to Him, "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died."

Jesus could have healed Lazarus at a distance just as well as He could by being close, if that had been God's will. Jesus knew Lazarus was dead before He started to Bethany, and it was to show the people the power of God and to increase the faith of His followers that He had not healed him while he was sick. It was indeed a miracle to make a sick man well immediately, but it was a greater miracle to raise one from the dead, but it was a still

greater miracle to bring back to life a man who had been dead four days, and had been buried.

Jesus said to her, "Thy brother shall rise again."

Martha did not know He meant that Lazarus should rise now, but she thought He meant he should rise at that time when God shall raise all bodies from the dead, so she answered, "I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25).

He wanted to show Martha that He was the Son of God, and that it was through Him that the dead some day would be brought to life, and it would be just as easy for Him to bring Lazarus to life now as it would be to bring him to life years from now.

Whoever believes in Jesus and lives a life that prepares him to meet God, though he will die some day, will be raised up by Jesus and live with Him forever.

Everyone who does not know Jesus is dead to God, he is dead in his sins; but, if he accepts Jesus as his Savior, his sins will be forgiven and he will be alive unto God.

After this talk outside the town where Martha had met Jesus, she hurried back to where Mary, overcome with grief, sat in the house, and quietly told her so no one would hear that Jesus had come and had asked for her.

When Mary heard this, she arose quickly and left the house. Her friends noticed her leaving, and they followed her, whispering among themselves that she was going to the grave of Lazarus to weep.

When she got to Jesus she fell down at His feet weeping, and when Jesus saw her and her friends weeping, He felt so sorry for them in their grief that He wept also.

He asked them where they had buried him, and they showed Him the place. They had buried him in a cave and a stone covered the opening.

Jesus told them to take the stone away, and when they did as He commanded, He looked up to God and thanked His Father for hearing His prayers. He said He knew that God always heard Him, and He wanted the people who stood by the grave to believe that God has sent Him into the world. He was just about to perform a miracle that nobody could do except one sent from God.

After His prayer, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth;" and Lazarus, who had been dead four days, came out of the cave bound hand and foot with the clothes which he had been wrapped in for burial, and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

He wanted all the people to know that a miracle had been done. Something had happened that nothing but the power of God could bring to pass. Lazarus had been changed from death to life at the command of Jesus.

When we become followers of Jesus a miracle is done in us. Nothing but the power of God can bring about such a change as comes over us. We hate sin and love Jesus, and people know by our changed lives that Jesus has performed another miracle.

No doubt the weeping of Mary and Martha and their friends was immediately turned into rejoicing when they saw Lazarus standing alive and well before them. These sisters were very grateful to Jesus, and they loved Him very much. He had always found a warm welcome at their house, and we read of Him often resting there.

ENEMIES OF JESUS

IN THE great city of Jerusalem was the temple. Here, on feast days, Jews from different parts of the country met to worship in this holy place. Here lived the priests and many Pharisees and scribes. Scattered through the country were other Pharisees and scribes teaching in the different synagogues.

These hated Jesus because He said their works were evil. Their hearts were not pure in the sight of God, and their teaching was not the Word of God, but they taught traditions of men: that is, what man had said people should do, but not what God had said should be done.

If they had loved God they would have loved Jesus, for He was the Savior God had promised to these Jewish people years before. They were not looking for a Savior who would teach them lessons of love and humility, but they were expecting a Savior who would reign gloriously over the Jewish nation and free them from the rule of the Gentiles.

Jesus, in His poverty, with fishermen and

publicans and sinners and the common people flocking after Him, did not seem to these haughty Pharisees like the Savior they had expected.

Many times they tried to ask Him questions He could not answer, hoping thus to find some fault in Him whereby they might accuse Him. His answers to all questions silenced them, for His wisdom was of God, and they were only men.

How gladly He would have shown them the way to heaven if only they had listened and believed; but we learn that even the people of Nazareth, the town where He spent most of His life, had turned against Him, and we no longer read of Him teaching and worshipping in the synagogues of Galilee and Judea.

Once they showed such hatred toward Him that He thought it best to leave Galilee. Another time they were so determined to kill Him that He thought it wise to leave Judea. And so from place to place with no where to lay His head the son of God went, teaching His disciples and healing all manner of sick people.

Do you wonder why Jesus endured all this persecution? He was carrying out God's

plan to give salvation to the people. He had come to earth to teach His followers and to die for the sins of the world; and with obedience to God and with a great love for everyone of God's creatures, He was willing to suffer all this that you and I and all people might have a chance to live with Him forever. What an example for us!

The people who followed Jesus wanted to make Him king and they really thought He would declare Himself king when He went to Jerusalem. The disciples thought so, too, so one day Jesus plainly told His disciples that He must go up to Jerusalem and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and the third day be raised from the dead. The disciples were shocked and grieved to hear this and could not understand why this was necessary.

For some time Jesus had kept away from the Pharisees and avoided meeting with the multitude. Sometimes, when He healed people, He would tell them to say nothing about it, for He needed to be alone with His disciples to teach them many things; but they were so glad to be healed that, forgetting what He had told them, they made known what He had

done for them and others knew where to find Him.

That is just the way we feel when we turn away from sin and God fills our hearts with His love. We want to tell it, and Jesus wants us to tell it.

He wants little children to come to Him. He said so. The disciples thought that perhaps He was too busy to give any of His time to children, and when their mothers brought them to have Him put His hands upon their heads and bless them, they told the mothers not to bother Him; but, when Jesus heard them saying this, He said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God," and He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon their heads, and blessed them.

There was to be a great religious feast in Jerusalem. It was the feast of Tabernacles, and from all parts of the country great crowds of Jews were going up to attend it. Thinking the Pharisees and their friends would be looking for Him, and perhaps arrest Him before His work of teaching was finished, Jesus did not go up with the crowd.

The Pharisees looked among the people, but could not find Him. A few days later

Jesus and His disciples entered the city and suddenly appeared in the temple, where He began teaching the people who had gathered about Him.

They were astonished at His learning. They knew He had not attended the schools, and they thought God must have taught Him as He did the prophets of old.

Some said, "Is not this he, whom they seek to kill? But, lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ?" (John 7:25-26).

The Pharisees heard what the people were saying among themselves, and they and the chief priests sent officers to take Him. They returned without Him, and when asked why they had not brought Him, they answered, "Never man spake like this man."

This angered the Pharisees, but the officers would not arrest Him, and after the feast was ended Jesus left the city. God was watching over Him and it was not yet time for Him to fall into the hands of sinful men, but it was the time for Him to declare before all the people and the rulers that He was indeed the Son of the living God.

He declared this more fully at the feast

of Dedication, another feast of the Jews. They came around Him and said, "If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly." Then He said, "I and my Father are one." That was as though He had said, "I am the Son of God; I am the Savior of men." Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him, but He escaped out of their hands.

Then He went to the country of Perea, which was beyond Jordan, near the place where John the Baptist had baptized many people.

TO THE FEAST OF THE PASSOVER

FOR three years Jesus had been going about doing good and teaching, but now that part of His work as drawing to a close, and soon the other part would be finished, and His life on earth be ended.

The time for another feast of the Passover had come. The Jews kept this feast each year in Jerusalem. At this feast lambs were slain to remind the people of the Lamb of God, who was to come and be slain for the world's redemption. Jesus was this Lamb of God, and He knew that it was at this Passover that He was to die to take away the sin of the world.

A great many people came to Jerusalem at this time, and Jesus and His disciples were surrounded by the multitude who, with them, journeyed toward the Holy City.

As they neared the city, Jesus told two of His disciples to fetch a young ass, on which no one had ever ridden, that He might ride into Jerusalem. This they did, and, spreading garments upon the animal, they placed their Master upon it.

When the multitude saw Him, they remembered an old prophecy which said to Jerusalem, "Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion; . . . behold, thy King cometh unto thee; . . . lowly, and riding upon a colt the foal of an ass" (Zechariah 9:9).

They thought that Jesus was going to assert His power as their ruler, so they began to receive Him as King. They spread their outer garments in His path and strewed the soft branches of the olive and palm trees before Him, and the shouts of these happy, excited people echoed and re-echoed from hill to hill as they cried, "Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest" (Matt. 21:9).

Many Pharisees looked upon this scene and were angry. They saw that they were losing control of the people; and, turning to Jesus, they said, "Master, rebuke thy disciples."

But He answered, "I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out" (Luke 19:39, 40).

This was God's plan and no earthly power could stop it. He wanted the attention of the people to be centered upon His Son,

the Savior of the world, so that the trial and crucifixion which were to follow could never be hidden or forgotten.

As the procession came to the brow of the hill overlooking Jerusalem, the full splendor of the beautiful city could be seen. A look of sadness came over the face of the Savior as He thought of the destruction awaiting it. He was now on the place where He knew that about forty years later the Roman army would encamp and burn to the ground this wonderful city of the Jews, and scatter abroad God's chosen people, because they had rejected Him as their Savior.

So overcome was the Son of God with these thoughts that He wept. Some nearest Him heard the words of sorrow He uttered, and saw His falling tears; but the multitude swept on, singing and shouting down into the valley, and then up again to the gate of Jerusalem.

People came out of the city to meet Him, and in great wonderment were asking, "Who is this?" And the people replied, "This is Jesus, the prophet of Nazareth, of Galilee."

The next day Jesus entered the temple and found the Jews doing the same thing He had forbade them doing less than three years

before. They were buying and selling in the temple. He heard again the bleating of the sheep and the lowing of the cattle, which were to be sacrificed for the sins of the people.

Their sin was not in sacrificing these animals, for God had ordained that; but their wrong doing was in buying and selling in God's holy temple.

Jesus cast out all who sold and bought, and overthrew the tables of the money changers, and the seats of them that sold doves, and He said, "It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer, but ye have made it a den of thieves" (Matt. 21:13).

After the court of the temple was cleared at the command of Jesus, the place was filled with people who had brought their sick to be healed.

The chief priests and scribes stood by, and when they saw the lame leaping for joy, and the blind receiving their sight, and all the sick people perfectly well, and heard the voices of the children about Him in the temple shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were much displeased.

Hoping he would silence them, they turned to Jesus and said, "Hearest thou what these say?" He answered, "Yea, have you

never read, Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?"

He would not silence the happy children, for His praises must be sounded, and God had permitted the children to do it.

The rulers were so angry because the people followed Jesus and because He showed so much authority and power that they met in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, and planned how they might take and destroy Him; but they said it must not be on the feast day, lest there be an uproar among the people. The people were the friends of Jesus and the city would be full of them on the day of the feast. The rulers thought it best to wait until the feast was over and all had returned to their homes.

The time had now come for the feast, and Jesus sent two of His disciples to find a place where they might eat the Passover supper together.

People who lived in the city were always glad to give a room in their houses to the visitors where they could keep the feast.

Jesus told Peter and John, when they went out to find a place, that they would meet a man carrying a pitcher of water. They were to follow Him, and at whatever house he



The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

entered they were to find the owner and say to him, "The Master saith, Where is the guest chamber where I shall eat the passover with my disciples?" (Mark 14:14).

Jesus said that the man would then show them a large upper room furnished and prepared, and there the disciples were to make ready the supper.

They did this, and at evening Jesus and the twelve were there together.

As they rested on couches around a low table, Jesus said, "With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer."

There was sweet wine on the table, and He took a cup of it, and, after thanking God again, said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves; for I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God shall come."

There was a tone of sadness in the voice of Jesus as He thus talked with His disciples. He knew the cross awaited Him. He knew the cruelty and ingratitude that would be shown Him by the ones He had come to save. His sorrow was for them who would reject Him and lose eternal life, and for His disciples who would suffer much after He had gone from them.

“And He took bread and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.”

“Likewise also the cup, after supper, saying, This is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you” (Luke 22:19-20).

The bread and the wine represent the body and blood of Jesus. As the bread was broken, and the wine poured out, so on the cross Christ's body was broken and His blood shed to save us.

By eating the bread and drinking the wine, we show that we believe this. We show that we repent of our sins and that we take Christ as our Savior.

This is called the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and we keep it because He has said, “This do in remembrance of me.”

While still seated at the table, Jesus said, “Verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me” (Matt. 26:21).

They were exceedingly sorrowful, and, knowing there were no evil thoughts in their hearts against the Master, each wonderingly inquired, “Lord, is it I?”

Then Judas, who had agreed to bring the Pharisees and rulers to a place where they

might arrest Jesus without fear of the people, and believing his Master knew nothing of his wicked plot, also asked, "Master, is it I?"

Nothing could be hidden from the Son of God, and He answered Judas, "Thou hast said," which meant, "Yes, thou art the one who shall betray Me."

Presently He said again to him, "What thou doest, do quickly." No one at the table knew what He meant but Judas. The others thought He was telling him to buy some things they needed, or that he should give something to the poor; for Judas took charge of their money. He soon arose and left the room to carry out his evil plan, and it was night when he went out.

Jesus told His disciples many things that night after Judas had gone. He told them He was going back to heaven to prepare a place for them, and He would come again and receive them unto Himself. God would send the Holy Spirit into their hearts to lead and comfort them while He was gone, and whatever they asked in His name that they should receive.

He promised these things not only to the disciples, but He promises them to us also.

And He said, "He that hath my command-

ments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father; and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him" (John 14:21).

GETHSEMANE

THAT same night Jesus and His eleven disciples left the upper room, where they had eaten the Passover supper, and went forth over the brook Cedron, and entered into a garden called Gethsemane. Into this garden Jesus had often brought His disciples that they might pray and rest.

Prayer was His purpose now, for He needed strength from His Heavenly Father to sustain Him in the trials that He knew awaited Him.

In times of trial and temptation, we should pray to Him who alone is able to give strength to overcome the tempter.

Leaving all the disciples except Peter, James, and John near the entrance, He took these three deeper into the garden, and His face was very sad, and His heart was very heavy. He said, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch."

He wanted to be entirely alone with God, and, going a little distance from the three, He fell on the ground and prayed, "O, my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me:"

then, in perfect submission to the will of God, He said, "Nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Matt. 26:39).

No one can describe the suffering of the Savior, for He was in the greatest grief that anyone has ever felt. He was not suffering for His own sins, for He was sinless; but He suffered for the sins of the whole world. So great was His agony that He sweat drops of blood as He prayed.

Sin is such a dreadful thing in the sight of God, and cost Him and His only Son so much sorrow to free us from it that we should have nothing to do with it. Jesus will keep us from falling into sin if we trust Him to do it.

Coming back to His three disciples, He found them asleep, but His words awakened them as He said to Peter, "What, could ye not watch with me one hour?" Knowing the weakness of the body, He added, "The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Before they had entered the garden, He had told His disciples that that night they would all be offended because of Him; but they had assured Him that they would not, and Peter had said, "Although all should be



“NOT MY WILL, BUT THINE BE DONE”

offended, yet will not I. I am ready to go with thee, both into prison and to death."

And Jesus had said to him, "Verily, I say unto thee, that this night before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice."

And Peter had answered, "Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee." The others had declared the same thing.

Jesus went away from them the second time, and prayed again, "O, my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me except I drink it, thy will be done."

He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy. His presence awakened them, but they could say nothing.

In great agony He again sought the place of prayer and prayed the same words, and His will was submissive to the will of His Father as He prayed, "O, my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done," and an angel came and comforted Him.

He came back the third time, and found them asleep, and He said, "Sleep on now, and take your rest, behold the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners."

Even as He spoke, He heard the tread of

the soldiers, and saw the light of the lanterns and torches through the trees. He said, to His disciples, "Rise, let us go; lo he that betrayeth me is at hand" (Mark 14:42).

Fearing the soldiers would not recognize Jesus, Judas had said to them, "Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is He; take Him and lead Him away safely." Going up to Jesus, he said, "Hail, Master;" and kissed Him.

Jesus said reprovngly, "Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?" Then, turning to the soldiers, He said, "Whom seek ye?"

They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus said, "I am He."

As He uttered these words the soldiers fell to the ground. The very breath of His mouth had power to drive them back and strike them to the earth. As Job said, "Thus by the blast of God, they might have perished, and by the breath of his nostrils they might have been consumed."

He wanted them to know they could have no power over Him unless He permitted them, but because He came into the world to die for the sins of the world, He would allow them to lead Him like a lamb to the slaughter.

The soldiers soon arose, and gathered

about Him, and again He said, "Whom seek ye?" And they answered, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus said, "I have told you that I am he; if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way." He meant His disciples. They might arrest Him, but He would not allow them to touch His followers.

Peter, intending to defend his Master, drew his sword and cut off the ear of Malchus, a servant of the high priest. Jesus touched the wounded ear and healed it, and He said, "Put up again thy sword into his place; for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword."

"Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and He shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" He asked.

"In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me" (Matt. 26:55).

Seeing their Master was going to be arrested, and fearing they also would be taken, the disciples, who a short time before said

they would not deny Him, and Peter who had declared his readiness to go to prison or to death with Him, now forsook Him and fled into the darkness.

They had gone to sleep when Jesus had said, "Tarry ye here, and watch with me," and had neither given Him sympathy when He came back to them at different times, nor had prayed; therefore they had not received the strength and courage that now they so much needed.

We should watch and pray and thus be ready for any trial or temptation that may come into our lives. Jesus has said, "Without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5).

The soldiers bound the Savior, who made no resistance, and, guarding Him on all sides, led captive from the garden the obedient Son of God.

Although the disciples had forsaken Him, and no earthly friend was near, Jesus was not alone. Once He had said to His disciples, "Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me."

We have the same assurance. God will ever be with us. We may be deserted by

friends, but the mighty One who made the heavens and the earth and all the people, will never, never desert His faithful followers. He has given us these promises, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Heb. 13:5). And, "If God be for us, who can be against us" (Rom. 8:31).

THE TRIAL AND SENTENCE

LEAVING the garden wrapped in darkness, the soldiers and officers led Jesus back over the brook Cedron, and into the city of Jerusalem.

They took Him before Annas, who had once been the High Priest of the Jews. Very likely he asked Him many questions, and tried to find some fault in Him, but the members of the Sanhedrin were gathering at the palace of Caiaphas, the present High Priest, and there He must be taken for trial.

Peter had also left the garden and followed the crowd afar off. John, too, had recrossed the brook and had entered Jerusalem. They saw the Savior taken to the palace of the High Priest, and both resolved to follow to see the end. John was acquainted with some people there, and went into the house. He noticed Peter standing outside the door, and, speaking to the maid who kept the door, she permitted Peter to go in. Later, she said to him, "Art not thou also one of this man's disciples?" And Peter said, "I am not."

The early morning was very chilly, and

a fire had been built. Peter sat down among the servants to warm himself and wait to hear the result of the trial of Jesus before the Sanhedrin.

As the light of the fire fell upon his face some one standing by looked at him earnestly and asked, "Art not thou also one of His disciples?" He denied again, saying, "I am not."

One of the men who was a relative of Malchus, whose ear Peter had cut off with his sword, said to him, "Did not I see thee in the garden with Him?"

Peter again denied, and immediately the cock crew. Jesus turned and looked at Peter and he remembered that Jesus had said, "Verily, I say unto thee, that this night before the cock crow thou shalt deny me thrice."

Knowing how untrue he had been to the Lord, and seeing Jesus as He turned and looked at him, Peter left the palace weeping bitterly.

As Jesus stood bound before the Jewish elders and scribes the High Priest asked Him of His disciples and of His doctrine.

Jesus answered, "I spoke openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogues, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing.

All these years that Jesus had been teaching, the Pharisees had listened to His doctrine, and they already knew what He had taught. They only hoped He would claim before them all that He was the Son of God, for that was the only thing of which they could accuse Him. They thought He would do this and so they questioned Him about His doctrine.

“Why asketh thou me?” He said. “Ask them which heard me, what I have said unto them; behold they know what I said.”

When He had said this, one of the officers standing by, thinking his master had not been treated with respect, struck Jesus with the palm of his hand and said, “Answerest thou the high priest so?”

Jesus paid little attention to the blow. He only quietly said, “If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why smitest thou me?”

They sought witnesses who would prove that Jesus had done something worthy of death, but they could prove nothing against Him.

At last the High Priest arose and said, “I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell

us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God."

All were silent, waiting for the answer. If He should say He was the Son of God they would condemn Him. They would have something for which to accuse Him before Pilate. Would He answer at all or would He refuse to make any reply as He had done to many of their questions?

Jesus had never denied His mission in the world, or that God was His Father, and He would not now. He could pay no attention to questions that were foolish, but He would not deny the truth; so He answered, "Thou hast said," which meant He was indeed the Son of God — the promised Savior of the world.

Then the High Priest rent his robe as if to show his horror that Jesus should make Himself equal with God. "He hath spoken blasphemy," he said. "What further need have we of witnesses? Behold, now ye have heard His blasphemy. What think ye?"

And they answered, "He is guilty of death" (Matt. 26:66).

He was led away from the presence of the scribes and the elders until the morning should come. The soldiers and the mob

treated Him shamefully. They blindfolded Him and spat in His face and struck Him with the palms of their hands, and told Him to tell them who it was that struck Him.

With patience and in silence Jesus bore all this cruel treatment. Before He left heaven He knew what trials He would have, but He bore them in order that sinful men might be accepted of God. How He loved us. We should love with all our hearts God's Son who died to save us, and never give Him cause to grieve over any acts or words of ours.

It was not lawful for the Jews to try a prisoner by night, but they had done so. Now there must be a formal trial by day.

So in the early morning, when the day began to break, they led Jesus before His judges and pronounced the final sentence of death.

The Jews were subject to the Romans at this time, and the Romans would not permit them to put anyone to death without the consent of the Roman governor. Pilate was the governor, and before him Jesus must appear.

When Judas saw that Jesus was condemned to death, he was sorry for the part he had taken in the arrest, and bringing back to the chief priest and elders the thirty pieces of

silver they had given him, he declared he had betrayed a man who was innocent.

But they treated him coldly. They had paid him for his work of betrayal and now they were done with him. They said, "What is that to us? See thou to that."

And Judas, filled with remorse, but not truly penitent, threw the pieces of silver down on the floor of the temple and went and hanged himself. Such is the awful result of sin. Satan rewards his followers just that way.

Jesus was sent into the judgment hall of Pilate, but the Jews themselves would not go in, lest they should be defiled.

He saw before him a man whose face bore not the slightest trace of crime. He must know why the Jews had brought Him. Going out to them, he said, "What accusation bring ye against this man?" (John 18:29).

They answered, "We found this fellow perverting the nation and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ a king" (Luke 23:2).

This was not true, for Jesus had once said to the Pharisees, when they tried to get Him to speak against Caesar, the emperor, "Ren-

der therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's" (Matt. 22:21).

Pilate had probably heard about Jesus and he turned to Him and asked, "Art thou the King of the Jews?" And Jesus answered, "Thou sayest it."

"And the chief priests accused Him of many things; but He answered nothing. Pilate said to Him, Answerest thou nothing? behold how many things they witness against thee? But Jesus yet answered nothing; so that Pilate marveled" (Mark 15:3-4-5).

He said to the chief priests and the people, "I find no fault in this man."

When they heard Pilate say this they replied fiercely, "He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place" (Luke 23:4-5).

Pilate was anxious to take no part in this matter against Jesus, and when the people spoke of Galilee he had a hope that Jesus might live there, and, if He did, Herod would be the one to sentence Him. So he anxiously inquired if Jesus lived in Galilee. Learning that He was a Galilean, Pilate breathed easier and, dropping all responsibility, sent Him to Herod, who was in Jerusalem at that time.

Herod had long wanted to see Jesus, for



Jesus Before Pilate

he had heard much about Him, and he hoped to see Him do some of His miracles. But Jesus would never perform a miracle simply to gratify curiosity. He remained silent before him, even when he asked Him many questions, and when the chief priests and scribes strongly accused Him.

“And Herod and his men of war set him at naught, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate” (Luke 23:11).

Pilate spoke to the accusers of Jesus and said, “Ye have brought this man unto me as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him:

“No, nor yet Herod; for I sent you to him; and lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto him.

“I will therefore chastise him and release him.”

It was the custom during the time of the feast for the governor to release any prisoner the Jews might desire released, so Pilate suggested releasing Jesus.

Now, there was in the prison a man named Barabbas. He and his men had started

some trouble in Jerusalem, and had killed some people who had tried to quiet them.

The Jews thought of this prisoner, and they cried, "Away with this man and release unto us Barabbas" (Luke 23:18).

Pilate said, "What will ye that I shall do unto him whom ye call the King of the Jews?" (Mark 15:12).

And the people answered, "Crucify him, crucify him" (Luke 23:21).

"And the governor said, Why, what evil hath He done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified" (Matt. 27:23).

While the elders and people were clamoring to have Barabbas released and Jesus crucified, a messenger came to Pilate from his wife with this message: "Have nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of Him."

Pilate believed He was innocent, too, and knew the people had taken Him through envy, but he feared the Jews would report him to Caesar, and he would lose the governorship if he did not consent to the wishes of the people, whom the scribes and elders had moved against Jesus.

What a mistake Pilate made. Better for

us that we be true to Christ even though we lose our earthly positions and even our lives than that we refuse to defend Him and lose our souls.

All his intentions of defending Jesus were gone when they said, "If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar." They did not love Caesar, but they hated Jesus.

Pilate then brought forth God's Son, whom He had promised should be a Savior to the Jews, and Pilate said, "Behold your King."

But in their hatred they cried, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him." Pilate said, "Shall I crucify your King?" And the chief priest answered, "We have no king but Caesar."

Seeing he could do nothing now, for the crowd was furious, Pilate took water and washed his hands before the multitude to show it was not his wish to have Jesus crucified, and said, "I am innocent of the blood of this just person; see ye to it" (Matt. 27:24).

All through the trial Pilate had tried to release Jesus, but his first mistake was in not

acting firmly and promptly in what he believed to be right.

We must oppose the wrong firmly and at once. Jesus wants His people to be strong and full of courage. He wants to see them boldly denouncing what is wrong and bravely defending what is right. He wants real soldiers in His army.

When Pilate declared his own innocence, the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children."

Barabbas, the murderer, was released, and Jesus, the Son of God, was delivered into the hands of the soldiers to be crucified, for this was the desire of the Jews.

THE CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL

THE soldiers led the Savior into the common hall and the whole band of Roman soldiers gathered about Him. They put a purple robe upon His body, and a crown of thorns they put upon His head, and in His right hand they placed a reed to represent the scepter of a king. All this was done in mockery. They bowed the knee before Him and tauntingly said, "Hail, King of the Jews."

And they spit upon Him, and took the reed and smote Him on the head. Then they took off the robe and put on Him His own raiment, and led Him away to a place called Calvary, which was outside the walls of Jerusalem.

A great company of people followed as the soldiers led Him on, bearing His own cross to the place of crucifixion. The cross was too heavy for Him in His weakened condition, and they compelled Simon, a man whom they met, to carry it.

Among this company were women weeping for Him, and, turning to them, He said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me,

but weep for yourselves and for your children" (Luke 23:28).

Then He told them of the days that were coming, when great suffering and terror would come upon the people, and Jerusalem would be destroyed, and the Jewish people would be scattered because they had rejected their Savior, and, because of their distress, they would say to the mountains, "Fall on us;" and to the hills they would cry, "Cover us."

We are told in the Bible there will be another time of suffering and terror to the ones who have rejected the Savior. When He comes with the angels to earth again they will not be glad to see Him, but they will hide in dens and say to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb" (Rev. 6:16).

That will be a time of victory for Christ and His followers, but now He must suffer. Reaching the place of crucifixion, they laid the cross on the ground, and, placing Jesus upon it, stretched His arms out on the cross beam and drove nails through the palms of His hands into the wood. They fastened His feet with nails also. They lifted the cross

and thrust the end of it into the pit they had dug for it. There the Lord would hang until He died, and, sitting down, the soldiers watched Him.

Pilate had had placed over the head of the Savior these words: "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews," and they were written in Hebrew, and Greek and Latin.

The chief priests said to Pilate, "Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews." But Pilate would not change the words, and he said, "What I have written I have written."

Laughing and wagging their heads, the people said, mockingly, "If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross." "He saved others; Himself He cannot save." "If He be the King of Israel, let Him come down from the cross, and we will believe Him." "He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now, if He will have Him: for He said, I am the Son of God."

Two thieves were crucified with Him: one on either side. At first they joined with the elders, scribes, people and soldiers in mocking Jesus; but one of them, seeing He bore His suffering so patiently, and had even said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not

what they do," believed He was indeed the Son of God. Rebuking the other thief for his taunts, he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." And Jesus replied, "Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:42-43).

The morning wore away and the Son of God hung dying on the cross. At noon a dreadful darkness covered all that land, and lasted three whole hours. Then Jesus cried, "It is finished" (John 19:30). "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46). And He bowed His head upon His breast and died.

Then the earth shook terribly, and rocks were rent asunder, and many graves were opened, and in the temple in the city the veil that separated the holy place from the most holy place was rent from top to bottom.

"Now, when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God" (Matt. 27:54).

In the evening Joseph, who was a rich man of Arimathaea, and a member of the Sanhedrin, came to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus that he might bury it. Calling

the centurion to him, he asked if Jesus was dead yet. Being assured by the soldier that He was, Pilate gave permission to Joseph to bury the body.

Nicodemus, the ruler who came to Jesus by night, brought a mixture of myrrh and cloves, and, as was the custom of the Jews, they wrapped the body with the spices in linen clothes ready for burial.

In the place where Jesus was crucified was a garden, and in it there was a new sepulcher, which belonged to Joseph. There they tenderly placed the body, and, rolling a great stone across the entrance, departed.

Mary Magdalene and other women were there and saw where the body of their Lord was laid. They could stay no longer, for it was getting late, and their Sabbath began at sunset, and on that day no work could be done.

Now the chief priests and Pharisees came to Pilate and said they remembered that while Jesus was living He had declared that after three days He would rise again. They begged that the sepulcher might be guarded with Roman soldiers lest the disciples should come by night, and, stealing Him away, would say He had risen from the dead.

So the governor gave them a guard, which was stationed at the tomb, and they sealed the stone with a Roman seal.

THE RESURRECTION

VERY early on the first day of the week, which was the third day after the crucifixion, Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James, and Salome came to the tomb of Jesus with spices to anoint Him. As they walked along they were saying among themselves, "Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulcher?" (Mark 16:3).

But when they reached the tomb, they found it had been rolled away, for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone from the door.

Very early in the morning there had been a great earthquake, and the soldiers who were guarding the body of the Lord Jesus fell down as dead men when they saw the angel come from heaven, whose countenance was like lightning, and whose raiment was white as snow.

The women entered the tomb and found not the body of Christ. They were greatly perplexed; and, while they were wondering because of the empty tomb, two men stood by them in shining garments.

Mary Magdalene had hastened back to Peter and John, and said, "They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulcher, and we know not where they have laid him" (John 20:2).

The women at the tomb were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth before the angels, but they said to the women, "Why seek ye the living among the dead?"

"He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee.

"Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again."

And they remembered His words, and, trembling with fear and yet with hearts full of joy, they quickly left the sepulcher and returned to tell the disciples.

When Mary Magdalene told the disciples that the body of Jesus had been taken away, Peter and John ran to the tomb to see for themselves, and, entering, found nothing but the linen clothes in which the body had been wrapped, and the napkin which had been about His face.

They now believed, like Mary Magdalene, that some one had taken the body, but they



“HE IS NOT HERE, BUT IS RISEN”

did not understand that He had risen from the dead.

They went away, but she could not leave just yet. She could not bear to go not knowing where the body of the Lord was lying. She stood by the sepulcher weeping, and, as she wept, she stooped down and looked in. She saw two angels in white; one sitting at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

And they said to her, "Woman, why weepest thou?" And she said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him."

As she said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing by her side, but she thought He was the gardener; and, believing he would know where they had carried the body of Jesus, she said to him, after he had asked her why she wept and whom she sought, "Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away."

But, instead of the gardener answering as she expected, the sweet, gentle voice of Jesus fell upon her ears, saying, "Mary."

She recognized Him now, and, hastily brushing away her tears, reached out her

arms toward Him as she joyfully cried, "Rabboni" (Master).

"Jesus said unto her, Touch me not; for I have not yet ascended to my Father; but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father and your Father; and to my God and to your God" (John 20:17).

This was the first time Jesus had appeared to anyone since He rose from the dead. He next appeared to the other women as they were hurrying on to tell the disciples what the angels had said, and what they had seen at the tomb.

As He met them, He said, "All hail! And they came and held Him by the feet, and worshipped Him."

And He said, "Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me" (Matt. 28:9, 10).

Late in the afternoon of the same day, two disciples were on their way to Emmaus; a village which was about eight miles from Jerusalem. As they walked along, they were very sad as they talked about all the things that had lately happened.

Someone drew near and walked with them, and asked them what they were talking about, and why they looked so sad.



THE WALK TO EMMAUS

They were surprised that anyone should not have heard about the things that had lately been happening in and near Jerusalem.

“What things?” He asked them.

“Concerning Jesus of Nazareth,” they answered, “which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people.”

“And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and have crucified Him” (Luke 24:19-20).

And certain women, they told Him, had surprised them by saying they had gone early in the morning to the tomb and His body was not there, and the angels they saw told them He was alive.

The One walking with them asked them if Jesus did not come to the earth to die? If that was not God’s plan to save the people? And did not the prophets tell that all this should happen? Then He told them what the Bible said should be done to Jesus the Lamb of God.

When they reached the village they asked this stranger to stay with them, for it was getting late. He accepted their invitation, and, while sitting at the table, He took the bread and thanked God for it, and broke it, and gave it to them.

When He did this they looked at Him, and now knew what they did not know before that this stranger who had walked and talked with them along the road was Jesus. And, as soon as they knew Him, "He vanished out of their sight."

Joy now took the place of sadness in the hearts of these two disciples, and they hastened back to Jerusalem to tell the other discouraged ones that they had seen the risen Savior.

They found them in a room with the doors closed, for fear of the Jews, and as they told them about walking with the Lord, and about His breaking of bread, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them and said, "Peace be unto you."

They were greatly frightened at first, but He showed them His hands and His feet, and ate before them, and their fear was gone, their doubts had vanished, and they knew it was the Lord.

Thomas was not with them. He would not believe that Jesus had risen, but the next Sunday evening, just a week later, as the disciples were again gathered in the room behind closed doors, Jesus stood before them, and again said, "Peace be unto you."

He spoke to Thomas and showed him His hands, and His wounded side, where the soldier had thrust his spear as He hung on the cross, and He told Thomas not to be faithless, but to be believing.

And Thomas was convinced that it was Jesus who stood before him, and he said. "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28).

Jesus said, "Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." That is the blessing for us. We do not see the Savior as they did, but we believe without seeing and that is faith.

THE ASCENSION

THE sufferings of Jesus were over. His work was done. He had made a way for every soul ever born into the world to get back to God. God would now accept us because Jesus had died for the sins of the whole world. He has done His part to save us. We must do our part if we would be saved.

We must confess our sins to Him and then believe that He forgives us. We must refuse to do or say things that we know are not pleasing to Him. We must ask Him to guide us and keep us true when temptations come. We must have nothing to do with evil things. We must obey Him always.

While Jesus was on the earth there were things He must do in order to save us, so in our lives there are things we must do in order to be saved.

Jesus was soon to go back to heaven. He chose the Mount of Olives as the place of His ascension, and, with the eleven, He went to this mountain. They did not know this would be the last time they would see Him on earth.

While on the way He told them many

things: He said, "Behold; I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49).

After they had received the holiness and power that results from the baptism with the Holy Ghost, they were to go into all the world and "preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo," said Jesus, "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28:20).

These commandments are for us the same as for the disciples of old, and this promise He has given is dear to the heart of every true follower of Jesus.

He led them out as far as Bethany, and, while lifting up His hands to bless them, He slowly ascended from among them. The amazed disciples gazed upward as He rose higher and higher until a cloud received Him out of their sight. "And they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy" (Luke 24:52).

Jesus is coming again. We do not know when, but in God's own appointed time He will come. Not again as a babe to a humble

home will He quietly come, but with power and great glory will He appear. He will come in a cloud and a multitude of shining angels will be with Him.

It will be a time of judgment and many will not be glad to see Him because they are not ready to meet Him. Having clung to their sins and rejected salvation, they will be afraid. Then will be the time they will cry for the mountains and rocks to fall on them and hide them "from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of his wrath is come."

But the ones who have been true will have no fear. He is coming to honor them who have loved Him and they shall reign with Him forever and ever. They will dwell in that beautiful city where there need be no sun or moon, to shine in it: "for the glory of God will lighten it, and the Lamb is the Light thereof."

"And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day; for there shall be no night there."

"And God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain" (Rev. 21:4).



THIS SAME JESUS, WHICH IS TAKEN UP FROM
YOU INTO HEAVEN, SHALL SO COME IN
LIKE MANNER AS YE HAVE SEEN
HIM GO INTO HEAVEN
ACTS 1:11

Yes, Jesus is coming again. May we all be ready to meet Him with joy, and with all the redeemed of earth, praise Him forever, and ever, and ever.



“I STAND AT THE DOOR”

“BEHOLD, I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK”

You, my dear young readers, who have closely followed me through the earthly life of our Savior, have doubtless realized more than ever before the goodness and faithfulness of God, the love of Jesus, and the work of the Holy Spirit.

You have seen how God fulfilled His promise and sent His Son Jesus into the world to die for us because He loved the people He had created and wanted every one of us to turn away from sin and Satan and choosing to follow Jesus, get back to our Creator from whom we had wandered.

You have seen also how willing the Son of God was to leave His Father and the holy angels and come and dwell among sinful people that we might, through His life and death and resurrection, be obedient to God and have an everlasting home in heaven.

No doubt the Holy Spirit who teaches us the things of God has made you see more clearly the deceitfulness of Satan, and that a life spent in following him can only mean in

this world an unhappy ending, and in the world to come punishment and sorrow and suffering which has no end. How, then, can any wise young reader choose to follow him?

To every one there comes a time to choose a leader. This time comes to us when we are very young. Just as soon as we begin to know what is right and what is wrong, then the time has come for us to choose.

We must have a leader. You may think you have not chosen one, but you have. If you are doing the things that are wrong, then Satan is your leader, and you know where he will lead you. If you are doing the things that are right, then Jesus is leading you.

We may choose only one leader. It is folly to think you can follow Satan today and follow Jesus tomorrow; to think you can follow Satan through the week and Jesus on Sunday. No, my dear child, you cannot do that. No brave, true soldier does that way. He chooses the one he thinks is right and follows him at all times, wherever he may lead.

So, in that way Jesus wants us to follow Him. Choosing Him once and for all time, and being true to Him to the end. Overcoming the sins of the world because He was able to

overcome them and receiving our reward at His hands.

Jesus said, “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne.”

He does not intend that Satan shall overcome us, but by accepting Jesus we shall overcome Satan. How tenderly He pleads for us to accept Him as our leader and Savior.

He knows there is no other way for us to be saved, and He stands at the door of each heart and knocks, hoping we may open the door and let Him come in.

He wants us to choose Him. He wants us to invite Him to come in. He never forces His way into any heart, but He just patiently stands and knocks, waiting for the owner of that heart to open the door and bid Him come in and abide forever.

How can any heart refuse to accept this loving Savior? How can any one hear His gentle knock upon the door of their heart and refuse to open it? He has said:

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”

I pray that you may hear the voice of Jesus calling you, and that you may remember and obey your Creator in the days of your youth.

I pray that before you close this book you may choose the Savior to lead you through this world of sin and on up through the gates of pearl into the city of God and up to the great white throne, where He says you may sit with Him.



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